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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Mattie
4 Ree Smith-Eiland, who passed away on February 16, 2023; and

5 WHEREAS, Mattie Ree Smith-Eiland was born in Gary, Indiana
6 to Cornelius Smith and Rosia Ann Cumberland-Smith on November
7 11, 1928 and spent her formative years in Jackson,
8 Mississippi; she excelled at both Sally Reynolds Elementary
9 School and Jim Hill High School; she graduated from the
10 Jackson College for Negro Teachers (Jackson State University)
11 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education; she did
12 advanced degree work at Indiana State University; and

13 WHEREAS, Mattie Ree Smith-Eiland began her teaching career
14 in McComb, Mississippi and eventually returned to Jackson to
15 teach at her alma mater, Sally Reynolds Elementary School; and

16 WHEREAS, Mattie Ree Smith-Eiland married Bernard H. Eiland
17 in 1953, and they eventually settled in Chicago, where they
18 attended Olivet Baptist Church; she taught in the Ford Heights
19 and East Chicago Heights school districts; in 1970, she joined
20 the Chicago Public School System and began teaching at Myra
21 Bradwell Elementary School; she went above and beyond the
22 requirements of the classroom and would often form personal

1 relationships with many of her students; as a result of her
2 efforts and dedication, she was a multi-year honoree in Who's
3 Who Among American Teachers & Educators; and

4 WHEREAS, Mattie Ree Smith-Eiland was passionate about her
5 community; she served as a board member for Grandma's House
6 for Battered Women and the Joint Negro Appeal; she sponsored
7 the Myra Bradwell Chapter of the National Jr. Beta Club and the
8 Red Circle Girls of Olivet Baptist Church; she was also a
9 faithful member of the St. Stephens Lutheran Church for over
10 20 years; and

11 WHEREAS, Mattie Ree Smith-Eiland retired from teaching for
12 the Chicago Public School System after 53 years but continued
13 to stay active; she became a member of the National Coalition
14 of 100 Black Women, while also working with pregnant teenage
15 girls; she enjoyed spending time with her family, babysitting,
16 talking with her friends, traveling, and continuing to educate
17 and encourage all those she encountered; and

18 WHEREAS, Mattie Ree Smith-Eiland was preceded in death by
19 her husband, Bernard Eiland; her parents; her brothers,
20 Prentiss Smith, Cornelius Smith II, and Daniel Cumberland; her
21 sisters, Ophia Dee and Mary Rembert; her niece, Sandra D.
22 Smith-Edwards; and her nephew, Fredrick A. Smith; and

1 WHEREAS, Mattie Ree Smith-Eiland is survived by her
2 daughter, Harriet; her sisters-in-law, Sarah Williams and
3 Dorothy Lewis; her family members, Marvin (Anitra), Frederic
4 "Bernie" (Theresa), Chris (Dominique), Marcus, Andres,
5 Abraham, Terrence, Daniel, Darryl, Phillicia "Nikki" (Calvin),
6 Sheryl D. (Earl), Ava (Andrew), Darla, Stephanie, April, and
7 Tiffany; her special sisters, Yvonne Best, Dr. Lois Sherman,
8 Gladys Norwood, and Carmen Clark; her special son, Donald
9 Reese Sr.; her special neighbors, Mario Tillman and Flora
10 Stone; and numerous nieces, nephews, friends, students, and
11 loved ones; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we mourn the passing of Mattie Ree Smith-Eiland and extend our
15 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew
16 and loved her; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Mattie Ree Smith-Eiland as an
19 expression of our deepest sympathy.