



HR0117

LRB103 31287 MST 58471 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of former Illinois State Representative Raymond Whitney Ewell, who passed away on October 28, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Rep. Ewell, the second child of Whitney and Severine Ewell, was born in Chicago on December 29, 1928; and

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WHEREAS, Rep. Ewell excelled academically as an adolescent, attending Corpus Christi Elementary School and later graduating from Englewood High School in Chicago in 1946; and

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WHEREAS, Following high school, Rep. Ewell earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Illinois in 1949, a Master of Arts in 1951, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Chicago in 1954; and

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WHEREAS, Rep. Ewell's commitment to service began with his military conscription into the U.S. Army, and after concluding his military career with an honorable discharge, he re-established himself in the legal field, practicing law for 53 years and becoming a partner at the law offices of Ewell, Graham, McCormick, Ross and Davidson; and

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1 WHEREAS, After years of participation in the 17th Ward
2 Regular Democratic Organization, Rep. Ewell was elected to the
3 Illinois House of Representatives and served the 29th District
4 from 1967 to 1983; and

5 WHEREAS, At the height of the Civil Rights Movement in
6 1967, Rep. Ewell, along with State Representatives Harold
7 Washington, Louis A. H. Caldwell, Otis Collins, Kenneth Hall,
8 and Calvin L. Smith and Senators Richard H. Newhouse and
9 Charles Chew Jr., founded the Illinois Legislative Black
10 Caucus; and

11 WHEREAS, During his tenure in office, Rep. Ewell served in
12 numerous leadership roles, such as chairman of the Illinois
13 House Higher Education Committee, chairman of the Illinois
14 Legislative Black Caucus, and chairman of the National Society
15 of State Legislators; and

16 WHEREAS, While in office and following his retirement from
17 the Illinois General Assembly, Rep. Ewell was an active member
18 in numerous organizations, including the Federal Public
19 Defender Program, the Cook County Bar Association, the NAACP,
20 the Washington Park Y.M.C.A., the Southtown Y.M.C.A, the
21 Business Men's Association, the St. Carthage Grooming School
22 for Boys, and the Perry Avenue Block Club; and

1 WHEREAS, Rep. Ewell was preceded in death by his first
2 wife, Joyce Ewell; and

3 WHEREAS, Rep. Ewell is survived by his wife, Marcia Ewell;
4 his sons, David Raymond, Marc Whitney, Raymond Anthony "Tony",
5 Anthony Romain, and Marcus Alleyne; his grandchildren, Marc
6 Jr., Kareim, Raymond Anthony Jr., Kendall, Drew, Diana,
7 Cameron, and Ala; and his great-grandchildren, Silas, Kai,
8 Aiyanna, and Kree; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we mourn the passing of former Illinois State Representative
12 Raymond Whitney Ewell and extend our sincere condolences to
13 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of Rep. Ewell as an expression of our
17 deepest sympathy.