



HR0341

LRB103 32650 LAW 62348 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate MajorBelle (Brown) James on the occasion of her 100th birthday on May 17, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, MajorBelle James was born to Dock and Rosa Brown in Belzoni, Mississippi on May 17, 1923; she was the only daughter of five siblings, including Hosea, William, Earl, and Alfred; and

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WHEREAS, MajorBelle James attended Forestville and Willard grammar schools, and she graduated 8th grade from Willard; she graduated from DuSable High School in 1941; and

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WHEREAS, MajorBelle James married John Velry James on May 3, 1943; they had one child, Rochelle James, who was born on October 31, 1943; they enjoyed 49 years of marriage until his passing on August 30, 1992; and

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WHEREAS, For 41 years, MajorBelle James was employed at Curtis Candy, known today as Nabisco, from 1947 until she retired in 1988; and

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WHEREAS, MajorBelle James attended and was baptized at both Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church and Corpus Christi

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1 Catholic Church, becoming a member of Corpus Christi Catholic  
2 Church at 15 years old; she formerly attended St. Ambrose  
3 Catholic Church and now attends St. Josephine Bakhita Parish;  
4 she was a member of The Knights of Peter Claver Ladies  
5 Auxiliary; and

6 WHEREAS, MajorBelle James has enjoyed cooking, especially  
7 baking cakes, and dancing; her hobbies have included  
8 videography, photography, and astrology; and

9 WHEREAS, MajorBelle James is the aunt of well-known singer  
10 Donny Hathaway, the son of her oldest brother, Hosea; and

11 WHEREAS, MajorBelle James is the grandmother of four, with  
12 one preceding her in death; the great-grandmother of 10, with  
13 one preceding her in death; the great-great-grandmother of 10;  
14 and the great-great-great grandmother of one; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
16 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17 we congratulate MajorBelle (Brown) James on celebrating her  
18 100th birthday; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to MajorBelle James as an expression of our esteem  
21 and respect.