



HR0354

LRB103 32913 LAW 62717 r

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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 Audrey
4 Mason Brookins, who passed away on June 5, 2023; and

5 WHEREAS, Audrey Brookins was born to Roy and Johnnie Mae
6 Mason in St. Louis, Missouri on June 2, 1936; she was raised in
7 East St. Louis; she attended Sumner High School in St. Louis,
8 where her passion for music flourished, and she showcased her
9 talent in several local recitals, including accompanying her
10 friend and known classical vocalist, Grace Bumbry, on the
11 Arthur Godfrey television show; she attended Scholes Teachers
12 College; she relocated to Chicago in 1954, where she continued
13 to nurture her creative spirit both at home and in her church
14 community; she married Howard Brookins at Gorham United
15 Methodist Church in 1958; and

16 WHEREAS, Audrey Brookins worked at Science Research
17 Associates (SRA) and Commonwealth Edison; she was noted for
18 her incredible talent in business administration, and she was
19 a skilled typist at 100 words per minute; and

20 WHEREAS, Audrey Brookins and Howard embarked on a
21 remarkable journey, becoming community organizers at Operation
22 Breadbasket, now known as Operation PUSH, successful business

1 owners, and influential figures in state politics in Illinois;
2 her unwavering support and commitment were instrumental in her
3 husband's political career in the Illinois House of
4 Representatives and Senate, and they worked together to forge
5 new paths for future leaders; she was the rock and foundation
6 that propelled Howard forward, both as a politician and a
7 business owner, standing beside him with dedication and zeal;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Audrey Brookins, who generally possessed a calm
10 demeanor, was known for her liveliness and enthusiasm when
11 pursuing her artistic endeavors; she crafted floral
12 arrangements, annual Easter baskets, handsewn dresses, and
13 delectable baked goods, including her renowned dinner rolls,
14 Christmas cookies, rum balls, and fruit cakes; she generously
15 shared her culinary talents, passing down her famous homemade
16 waffle batter recipe to her children and grandchildren and
17 often surprising loved ones with containers of batter and
18 treats; in her later years, she enjoyed creating bitmojis and
19 sending inspirational messages through her phone, dispatching
20 text messages to over 90 people every morning; and

21 WHEREAS, As the oldest among her sisters and cousins,
22 Audrey Brookins took on the role of guardian, ensuring the
23 well-being of her family with grace, elegance, and a nurturing
24 spirit; she loved upholding family traditions and cherished

1 making sentimental moments with loved ones; and

2 WHEREAS, Audrey Brookins was a remarkable woman who left
3 an indelible mark on the hearts and lives of those who were
4 fortunate enough to know her; she will be remembered as a
5 beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and
6 pillar of her community whose legacy of love, dedication, and
7 unwavering support will continue to inspire generations to
8 come; and

9 WHEREAS, Audrey Brookins was preceded in death by her
10 sister, Barbara Jean Behm; and

11 WHEREAS, Audrey Brookins is survived by her husband,
12 Howard B. Brookins Sr.; her sisters, Marian Jackson and
13 Beatrice "Bea" Sockwell; her children, Andrea Lynette (Norval)
14 Brookins Brown, Howard B. (Ebonie) Brookins Jr., Ronda Jean
15 (Kevin) Behm Brookins Williams, and Cheryl Ann Buckner; her
16 grandchildren, Christopher E. Brown, Christopher G. Britto,
17 Porsche (Robert) Buckner Snowden, Crystal (Julius) Brown
18 Garrant, Arifa Brookins Hinton, Gregory Howard Brookins
19 Hinton, Howard B. Brookins III, Kyli Bijai Marie Williams,
20 Kevin Matthew Williams, and Harihson B. Brookins; nine
21 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins,
22 and close friends; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we mourn the passing of Audrey Mason Brookins and extend our
4 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew
5 and loved her; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of Audrey Brookins as an expression of
8 our deepest sympathy.