



HR0420

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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 Edward
4 Louis "Ed" Wilson, who passed away on September 4, 2023; and

5 WHEREAS, Ed Wilson was born in Hammond, Louisiana to
6 Hattie Barney and Connie Wilson on January 30, 1916; his
7 family migrated to Chicago during the 1920s; he graduated from
8 Tilden Technical High School in Chicago and then spent five
9 years working to support the family and to save for college; he
10 worked as a Pullman Porter during that period; he graduated
11 from West Virginia State College with a degree in electrical
12 engineering in 1942, where he became a member of Alpha Phi
13 Alpha Fraternity in 1941 and was their oldest living member;
14 he married Odessa on August 20, 1942; and

15 WHEREAS, Ed Wilson was recruited to join the Tuskegee
16 Airmen while at West Virginia State College but instead chose
17 to serve in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, the predecessor of the
18 Air Force, in San Bernardino, California; and

19 WHEREAS, Ed Wilson was an early Black entrepreneur; he
20 formed a business in the 1950s that developed and tested
21 oscilloscopes for the military, becoming one of the first
22 Black government contractors; he closed that business and

1 later formed a partnership with some friends known as the
2 Practical Trades Institute, which specialized in training
3 electricians, TV repairmen, and others in a variety of
4 trades/crafts; and

5 WHEREAS, Ed Wilson decided to find more steady work with
6 engineering firms and soon earned a reputation as a top-notch
7 quality assurance specialist, which carried through his
8 career; at one firm he was chosen to be part of the team at
9 NASA that designed, tested, and equipped space suits for
10 astronauts; at another firm, he was frequently commended for
11 outstanding quality testing and innovation of automotive and
12 industrial supply equipment; during this time, he also was
13 asked to work alongside the federal administration on the Task
14 Force for Youth Motivation created under President Lyndon B.
15 Johnson; and

16 WHEREAS, Ed Wilson and Odessa Wilson were one of the
17 founding families of Kelly United Methodist Church, which
18 recently celebrated its 70th Anniversary; he was recognized
19 with their Lifetime Achievement and Service Award and served
20 as the church treasurer for many years; and

21 WHEREAS, Ed Wilson was the first Black Eagle Scout in the
22 Chicago area and an avid golf fan, which he continued to play
23 into his late 80s; he was affectionately known as "PaPoo",

1 bestowed upon him by his grandson, Brian; and

2 WHEREAS, Ed Wilson was preceded in death by his wife of
3 nearly 73 years, Odessa "MaMa", and his siblings, Vivian
4 Harris, Bernice Haywood, and Donald Carroway; and

5 WHEREAS, Ed Wilson is survived by his children, Robert,
6 Bruce (Cathy), and Paula (Bill); his grandchildren, Warren
7 Wilson, Ester Wilson, Marcus (Pam) Wilson, Bridget (James)
8 Cravens-Neely, Brian Wilson, Steven (Jessica) Wilson, Tiffany
9 (Josh) Bulliner Johnson, Willis Jack Bulliner III, and Dana
10 (Desmond) Bulliner Ervin; 18 great-grandchildren; four
11 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family and
12 friends; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
14 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we mourn the passing of Edward Louis "Ed" Wilson and extend our
16 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
17 and loved him; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Ed Wilson as an expression of our
20 deepest sympathy.