



HR0601

LRB103 39396 MST 69577 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 Pastor John E. Collins Sr., who passed away on February 1, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, Pastor Collins was born in Yazoo County, Mississippi to John Jr. and Laura B. Collins on September 14, 1955; he attended Paderewski and Robert Burns Elementary Schools and graduated from Westinghouse High School in 1974, which he affectionately referred to as "The House"; he married Gail Henning on February 3, 1979; and

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WHEREAS, Pastor Collins owned and operated Collins Realty, a thriving real estate brokerage; and

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WHEREAS, Pastor Collins was a charter member of Great True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, where he served faithfully; he was active in ministry and served as an organist, president of the choir, financial secretary, Sunday school teacher, and deacon; and

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WHEREAS, Pastor Collins accepted the call to the ministry and preached his first sermon on April 27, 1991; he became a licensed minister on April 28, 1991, and he was ordained in September of that same year; he became the pastor of Great True

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1 Vine Missionary Baptist Church on October 6, 1996; during this  
2 time, he also became a member of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church; and

3 WHEREAS, Pastor Collins was committed to making a positive  
4 impact on the Austin Community; he established the Laura B.  
5 Collins Development Center; his church spearheaded,  
6 participated in, and partnered with several programs,  
7 including Feed the Hungry, Angel Tree, and Toys for Tots, and  
8 the church assisted with several shelters and provided PPE  
9 during the pandemic; in addition, his church housed several  
10 programs, including an after school and mentorship program, a  
11 rental assistance program, and employment and training  
12 programs; and

13 WHEREAS, Pastor Collins had a desire to remain a life-long  
14 learner; he attended the Christian Bible Institute and  
15 obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Theology from Morris Booker  
16 Memorial College; he received a Bachelor of Arts in Leadership  
17 and a Master of Christian Ministry from Faith Evangelical  
18 Seminary; most recently, he was pursuing his doctoral degree;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Pastor Collins was an undeniable leader and  
21 assumed several leadership roles, serving as vice president of  
22 the United Baptist State Convention of Illinois, vice  
23 president of the Congress of Christian Education of the United

1 Baptist State Congress of Illinois, vice president of New  
2 Baptist Ministers Fellowship of Chicago and Vicinity, and vice  
3 moderator for the Sunlight District Association; he also  
4 served as president of the New Baptist Ministers Fellowship  
5 and as vice moderator of the Sunlight District Association;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Pastor Collins was a hard worker and fierce  
8 provider; preaching was his calling, but his family was  
9 definitely his ministry; he adored his wife, children, and  
10 grandchildren and was always present and showed up in every  
11 capacity; and

12 WHEREAS, Pastor Collins was preceded in death by his  
13 parents and his brother, Dale; and

14 WHEREAS, Pastor Collins is survived by his wife of 45  
15 years, Gail; his children, Takisha (James), JaQuice, Brooke  
16 (Jeremiah), Tacori, Tamika, and John; his grandchildren, Ya'J,  
17 Morgan, Makayla, Mayson, London, Landon, Logan, Parker, and  
18 Lyric; his sister, Annie (Anthony); his brothers, Darrell  
19 (Kimberly) and Tyrone (Aishah); his bonus grandchildren;  
20 numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, sisters and  
21 brothers-in-law, and friends; and the congregation at Great  
22 True Vine Baptist Church; 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 Pastor John E. Collins Sr. and extend  
4 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who  
5 knew and loved him; and be it further

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