



HR0861

LRB103 41293 ECR 74510 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 Pearly
4 Mae Bonds of Peoria, who passed away on June 29, 2024; and

5 WHEREAS, Pearly Bonds was born to Oscar Stinson Sr. and
6 Elizabeth (Mitchell) Stinson in Curve, Tennessee on October 4,
7 1923; she married T.R. Bonds in Caruthersville, Missouri on
8 October 31, 1942; and

9 WHEREAS, Pearly Bonds was a dedicated civil rights leader
10 in Peoria for over 50 years; she was instrumental in the City
11 of Peoria donating the NAACP building, and her efforts were
12 publicly celebrated when the building was renamed the Pearly
13 M. Bonds Community Center in 2014; she was one of the founding
14 visionaries of Peoria's African American Hall of Fame Museum
15 in 1987, where she served as a mentor and adviser to museum
16 leaders and was inducted in March 1996; and

17 WHEREAS, Pearly Bonds committed to her faith at an early
18 age; she attended Friendship Baptist Church, Grace Baptist
19 Church, and Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church in Peoria, where she was
20 a member for over 50 years and served in many capacities,
21 including as a pastoral advisor, pastor's aide, steward, and
22 choir member; she also founded the Willing Workers Club, was a

1 member of the Wilberforce Club, and led several voter
2 registration drives at church and in the community over the
3 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Pearly Bonds received many accolades, including
5 the NAACP 25 Years or More Service Diploma in July 1984, a
6 Certificate of Recognition from the Harrison Youth Center in
7 April 1992, the Rosa Parks Award from the King Holiday
8 Committee of Peoria in January 2009, the Valeska S. Hinton
9 Human Rights Award from the YWCA of Peoria in May 2010, and a
10 Certificate of Recognition for Dedicated Christian Service as
11 an Usher from the United Usher Board of Peoria in June 1997;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Pearly Bonds was preceded in death by her
14 parents; her husband; her daughter, Theresa "Terry" Bonds; her
15 brothers, Joseph E. Graves, Eddie Stinson, and William
16 Stinson; and her sisters, Virginia Stinson Donaldson, Girtie
17 B. Phillips, and Maggie L. Jamison; and

18 WHEREAS, Pearly Bonds is survived by her son, James Bond;
19 her grandchildren, Carlos Metts, Teon Metts, D'Mir Henderson,
20 Kristopher Poynter, and Avante' Bond; 10 great-grandchildren;
21 her sisters, Lillian Crooks and Alice Montine Brown; her
22 brother, Joseph Bedford (Marlene) Stinson; and a host of other
23 family and 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 Pearly Mae Bonds and extend our sincere
4 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
5 her; and be it further

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