



SR0643

LRB103 35632 MST 65706 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Richard Cotton Jr., who passed away on November 23, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, Richard Cotton was born in Tishabee, Alabama to Richard Sr. and Virginia Cotton on November 7, 1945; his faith was important to him beginning at an early age, and he joined Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church; and

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WHEREAS, Richard Cotton was a dedicated employee of the Dolton Park District; he was self-taught in many trades, including welding, carpentry, woodworking, and many others; his co-workers affectionately referred to him as Mr. C, Mr. Fix-it, Pops, and Papa Cotton; and

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WHEREAS, Richard Cotton was generous, devoted, hardworking, understanding, and reliable; he was a quiet man of action, willing to lend a hand to anyone in need; he did not spend his life worrying and lived his life with purpose, surrounded by his family who adored him; he was a humble man who lived an honest life; he had a huge heart and a bright and beautiful smile that touched everyone he met; and

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WHEREAS, Richard Cotton and his wife Bertha spent their

1 life together operating as a unit, building their home on the
2 foundation of love and commitment; they were affectionately
3 known as Papa Cotton and Mama Cotton to their family; and

4 WHEREAS, Richard Cotton was an amazing bowler with the
5 trophies to prove it; he enjoyed fishing and was an admirer of
6 all sports, especially Alabama football; he spent most of his
7 days tending to his garden, a hobby he inherited from his
8 mother, playing with his beloved granddaughters, grilling, and
9 enjoying his trusted word searches while watching Walker Texas
10 Ranger; and

11 WHEREAS, Richard Cotton was preceded in death by his
12 parents and his siblings, James, Thennie, Elizabeth, Mary,
13 Joseph, Johnnie, Willie, Jesse, Virginia, Josephine, and
14 Eartha; and

15 WHEREAS, Richard Cotton is survived by his wife of 49
16 years, Bertha; his daughters, Katherine, Krystal, and Katrina;
17 his granddaughters, Krysten and Mackenzie; his sisters,
18 Dorothy Cotton and Ida (Paul) Cotton Harden; his in-laws,
19 Levone Campbell, Mary-Helen Bell, Lillian Mullen, Patricia
20 (Marvin) Head, Vera Merriweather, Lilly Rose, and Ulysses
21 Simmons; children he referred to as his own, Pearl Cox,
22 Valerie Cotton, Alan (Sandra) Canty, Mondeyl (Anita) Canty,
23 and Lavell Applewhite; his honorary sister, Betty Nelson; and

1 numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends;
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
5 Richard Cotton Jr. and extend our sincere condolences to his
6 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Richard Cotton as an expression of
10 our deepest sympathy.