



SR1108

LRB103 41168 LAW 74385 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 John Cyril Mitchell, who passed away on June 14, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, John Mitchell was born to Joseph and Camilla Mitchell in Lanham, Maryland on March 14, 1967; he attended DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville, Maryland, where he excelled academically and athletically in football and softball; he continued his studies at Prince George's Community College in Largo, Maryland; and

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WHEREAS, John Mitchell was known as the esteemed chief of staff to Reverend Jesse L. Jackson Sr. at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition; he was first employed as executive assistant to Executive Director Nancy Ware of the Citizenship Education Fund; during this pivotal period in the mid-1990s, his exceptional talents caught the eye of Reverend Jackson, propelling him into a realm of greater influence and impact; and

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WHEREAS, After relocating to the national headquarters in Chicago, John Mitchell embraced his role as assistant to National Field Director Gary Flowers with fervor and dedication; together with his esteemed colleagues, his work

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1 was pivotal in organizing countless direct-action campaigns,
2 championing the cause of social, economic, and political
3 fairness across the nation; his involvement in historic
4 events, from voting rights marches in Jackson, Mississippi,
5 San Francisco, California, and Atlanta, Georgia to
6 commemorative pilgrimages honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin
7 Luther King Jr., underscored his unwavering commitment to
8 justice and equality; and

9 WHEREAS, John Mitchell's exemplary leadership and
10 unparalleled work ethic garnered widespread acclaim as he
11 ascended the ranks; transitioning to the roles of travel
12 assistant and then scheduler for Reverend Jackson, he became
13 the linchpin of organization and efficiency, ensuring that
14 every aspect of Reverend Jackson's schedule aligned seamlessly
15 with the overarching mission of the organization; his
16 meticulous attention to detail, coupled with his ability to
17 navigate complex logistical challenges, cemented his
18 reputation as a trusted confidant and strategic advisor; and

19 WHEREAS, John Mitchell became chief of staff to Reverend
20 Jackson in 2004; in this coveted position, he assumed a myriad
21 of roles, including goalkeeper, operator, implementer,
22 integrator, proxy, and advisor; his unwavering dedication and
23 steadfast resolve made him the indispensable cornerstone of
24 Reverend Jackson's inner circle, earning him the moniker of

1 the Reverend Jackson's "Go-to-Guy" among political luminaries
2 and community leaders alike; and

3 WHEREAS, John Mitchell was deeply committed to service; he
4 made annual pilgrimages to Maryland to join his mother in
5 organizing the largest volunteer tent for the annual Susan G.
6 Komen Race for the Cure; he also possessed boundless love for
7 and devotion to children, whether serving as a mentor,
8 counselor, or benefactor; and

9 WHEREAS, For his outstanding contributions, John Mitchell
10 was named Rainbow PUSH Employee of the Year and a Chicago
11 Defender Men of Excellence honoree in 2011; and

12 WHEREAS, John Mitchell was a visionary leader and a
13 tireless advocate for justice who embodied the spirit of
14 teamwork and perseverance; his indelible imprint on the fabric
15 of our society serves as a testament to the transformative
16 power of compassion, integrity, and unwavering dedication to
17 the pursuit of equality and justice for all; and

18 WHEREAS, John Mitchell is survived by his wife, Corita;
19 their children, John Baptiste and Camilla Elise Margaret; his
20 siblings, Joseph and Karen Mitchell Jr., Jason and Christina
21 Mitchell, and Dominick and Tori Mitchell; his nephews, Jacob,
22 Calvin, and Bryce; a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and

1 godchildren; and a global community of friends; therefore, be
2 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 John Cyril Mitchell 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 John Mitchell as an expression of
10 our deepest sympathy.