



SR1346

LRB103 43648 LAW 76996 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of William Alfred Caldwell of Waukegan, who passed away on December 3, 2024; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, William Caldwell was born to James Alfred Caldwell and Pinky Hawkins Caldwell in New Africa, Mississippi on August 7, 1943; after his mother's passing, he and his father moved to reside with his maternal aunt and her husband, Lola and Luther Lackey, on Liberty Street in Waukegan, Illinois, where he attended Andrew Cooke Elementary School; he and his father joined Shiloh Baptist Church of Waukegan in the 1950s, where he was baptized and his father met and married Rose Tipton; his family built a home on McKinley Avenue in Waukegan, where he resided in a multigenerational household with his paternal grandmother, Ida Stewart, and his paternal uncle, Ed; after matriculating through high school, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving as a staff sergeant for two years; he was married three times, to Johnnie B. Jennings, Johnnie Mae Caples, and Louise Jackson; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

WHEREAS, William Caldwell, upon receiving his honorable discharge, returned to Waukegan and began working at Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC), where he remained until it downsized; given his veteran status and past supervisory

21

22

23

1 experience, he became employed as a case manager at Waukegan
2 Township, patiently assisting and advocating for clients until
3 his retirement a decade ago; during his tenure, he was known as
4 "Mr. C" to clients and peers out of respect for his work; and

5 WHEREAS, William Caldwell joined and became an active
6 member of Antioch Baptist Church in Waukegan in later years,
7 where he loved participating with the men's ensemble; he
8 returned to Shiloh Baptist Church of Waukegan many years
9 later, where he enjoyed the fellowship and spiritual teachings
10 of Pastor Walstone Elijah Francis and Pastor Charles Ivy, and
11 he occasionally attended Sunday school; and

12 WHEREAS, William Caldwell was noted and admired for his
13 fashion sense and style throughout his life; he was a
14 consummate sports enthusiast, possessing a special affinity
15 for the Chicago Cubs, the Chicago Bulls, the Chicago Bears,
16 and the New York Knicks; he loved fishing with family and
17 friends, and he participated in fishing competitions near and
18 far; he enjoyed traveling, especially to warmer climates by
19 cruise ship; he also played a variety of instruments and
20 maintained an impressive album collection over the years; and

21 WHEREAS, William Caldwell was also known for his cool
22 demeanor, being referred to as "Jackie" by family and friends,
23 whose relationships he deeply cherished; and

1 WHEREAS, William Caldwell was preceded in death by his
2 parents; his son with Johnnie Mae Caples, Rashaan Caldwell;
3 his grandmother, Ida B. Stewart; his grandfather, Preston
4 Hawkins; his bonus mother, Rose Tipton Caldwell; his brother,
5 James Preston Caldwell; his sister, Dorothy Armsted; his
6 sister-in-love, Ernestine Caldwell; and his wives, Johnnie B.
7 Jennings-Caldwell and Louise Jackson; and

8 WHEREAS, William Caldwell is survived by his daughter with
9 Johnnie B. Jennings-Caldwell, LaTonya Hill; his grandson,
10 Durrelle (Meghan) Hill; his nephews, Russell (Alice) Jones and
11 Gregory (Stella) Jones; his nieces, Patricia A. Jones, Joy
12 (Ronald) Grace, and Michelle Caldwell; two
13 great-grandchildren; and a host of great-nieces; therefore, be
14 it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
17 William Alfred Caldwell and extend our sincere condolences to
18 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of William Caldwell as an expression
22 of our deepest sympathy.