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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois learned with deep regret of the untimely death of Launa T. Thompson on Sunday, June 20, 2004; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Thompson was a native of Detroit; she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and vocational rehabilitation from Wilberforce University in Ohio and a master's degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Cincinnati; after several years as a social worker, she began her career in sales for Dun & Bradstreet in Glen Ellyn; in 1980, she moved to WVON/WGCI Radio, where she quickly established herself as a broadcast professional by maintaining budgets, showing a strong billing performance, and creatively generating retail and agency accounts; and

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WHEREAS, In 1985, she left the station and worked briefly as a newspaper marketing manager for Gannett Corporation before becoming a local sales manager for WBBM-FM; a year later, she and her husband, Abe, a broadcaster, moved to work as a team for WRIF in Southfield, Michigan; when that station was sold, she returned to WBBM-FM as national sales manager; she also worked as local sales manager for WFYR and senior account manager with Black Entertainment Television; she returned to WGCI in 1994 as national account manager and became general sales manager in 1996; and

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WHEREAS, In eight years, Mrs. Thompson and her staff generated more than \$200 million in sales revenue; her unique ability to lead an aggressive professional sales staff earned WGCI-AM/FM the distinction of being the number one billing radio station in Chicago for advertising sales revenue in 1999 and the number one billing urban station in the nation; last November, she was named manager of three Clear Channel Chicago stations, WGCI-AM (now WGRB), WGCI-FM, and WVAZ-FM; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Chicago Sun-Times named her one of the ten
2 most powerful women in Chicago media; the trade publication
3 Radio Ink named her one of the most influential African
4 Americans in radio; she received the Kizzy Image and
5 Achievement Award from the Black Women's Hall of Fame
6 Foundation and honors from Radio & Records and the Broadcast
7 Advertising Club of Chicago; and

8 WHEREAS, She led numerous community outreach efforts,
9 providing hundreds of hours of volunteer work; she served on a
10 number of boards, including the Wilberforce Alumni
11 Association, the League of Black Women, Black Ensemble Theatre,
12 American Women in Radio and Television, Friends of LaRabida
13 Hospital, Midwest Women's Center and ETA; she was an active
14 member of Apostolic Church of God; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Thompson is remembered as an easygoing boss
16 who inspired loyalty; she was an accomplished public speaker
17 and she served as a mentor for individuals aspiring to enter
18 the broadcast sales profession; and

19 WHEREAS, Her passing has been deeply felt by many,
20 especially her husband, the noted author and broadcaster, Abe
21 Thompson; her mother, Daisy Gaines; and her son, Phoenix
22 Gaines; therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
24 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
25 mourn the passing of Launa T. Thompson, and we extend our
26 deepest sympathy to her family, friends, colleagues, and all
27 who knew and loved her; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
29 presented to the family of Launa T. Thompson as an expression
30 of our sincerest condolences.