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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the  
3 State of Illinois learned with deep sadness of the death of  
4 their former colleague, State Senator Margaret Smith of  
5 Chicago, on Monday, May 16, 2005; and

6           WHEREAS, Senator Smith served 22 years in the Illinois  
7 General Assembly; she was elected to the House of  
8 Representatives in 1980 and served one two-year term there; in  
9 1982, she was elected to the Senate; she was re-elected to the  
10 Senate six times and served as Senator for 20 years, retiring  
11 from the Senate in December of 2002; and

12           WHEREAS, Her late husband, Fred, served in the General  
13 Assembly for 36 years, from 1943 to 1979; the Smiths were  
14 married in 1955; and

15           WHEREAS, In the General Assembly, Margaret Smith was  
16 nationally recognized for her support of women's health care  
17 and health care affecting children, infants, and the poor; for  
18 nearly a decade, she served as chairperson of the influential  
19 Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Corrections committee,  
20 guiding some of the most pressing and sweeping legislation on  
21 health care through her committee, much of which served as a  
22 model for the nation; she also sponsored legislation requiring  
23 the State to cover mammograms for poor women and requiring  
24 insurance companies to cover mammograms; and

25           WHEREAS, Many health care organizations recognized her  
26 efforts on health care issues; she received the coveted  
27 "Legislator of the Year Award" from every major health care  
28 organization in the State, including the Illinois Nurses  
29 Association, the Illinois Hospital Association, and the  
30 Illinois Health Care Association; and

1           WHEREAS, In the Senate, she also was a leader in promoting  
2 African-American history in Illinois; she authored the  
3 legislation commissioning the sculpture of statues of Adelbert  
4 H. Roberts and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as well as the  
5 portrait of her late husband, Fred J. Smith; and

6           WHEREAS, An extensive traveler, Senator Smith visited  
7 Africa nine times and had been to Europe and Asia, as well as  
8 traveling throughout the United States; many of her travels  
9 were done as part of missionary work she did on behalf of the  
10 Foreign Mission Bureau of the National Baptist Convention; in  
11 honor of her efforts, a school In Haiti was named after her;  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, A graduate of DuSable High School, she graduated  
14 from Tennessee State University in Nashville and has an  
15 honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from the Chicago Baptist  
16 Institute; she was a member of the Bethesda Baptist Church,  
17 Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, and the Metropolitan Business  
18 Professional Women; she was a board member of the Ada S.  
19 McKinley Foundation and the Beatrice Caffrey Youth Center;  
20 therefore, be it

21           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
23 we mourn the passing of State Senator Margaret Smith, a woman  
24 who demonstrated a devotion to the needs of others in the  
25 General Assembly and in her day-to-day life; and be it further

26           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
27 presented to her family as an expression of our sincere  
28 condolences for the loss of their loved one and our friend.