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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois learned with sadness of the death of Helen Jean Sykes-Freeman of Chicago on December 26, 2004; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Sykes-Freeman was born April 27, 1932, to Joe and Susie Payton in Macon, Mississippi; and

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WHEREAS, She attended school in Mississippi and moved to Chicago in 1951; following the relocation, she married William Sykes; to this union two daughters were born, Yolanda (Renee) and Linetta (Net); and

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WHEREAS, In 1951, she joined Holy Trinity M.B. Church where she served as a member of the Usher Board; in 1973, she and her family joined Zion Travelers M.B. Church where she served as the President of the Usher Board for almost 30 years; she later joined True Christian Fellowship Church under the leadership of her brother, Rev. Andrew Payton; and

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WHEREAS, She later married Samuel (Sam) Freeman, her friend, companion, and traveling mate; and

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WHEREAS, Her passions in life included cooking, making her famous white potato pies, jello molds, and fresh coconut cakes, traveling, and most of all, her family and serving God; and

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WHEREAS, Her family had many names for her, such as Jean, Little Auntie, Mama Helen, Mamma, Grandma, The Cookie Lady, and her newest name, Big Granny; the name that stood out most was Job's Sister because she endured so much in her life like Job, and when faced with life's tragedies and obstacles, she knew she could handle them; and

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WHEREAS, Although Helen bore only two children, she was a

1 mother and grandmother to many; and

2 WHEREAS, She was preceded in death by her parents and seven  
3 siblings; and

4 WHEREAS, The passing of Helen Jean Sykes-Freeman is felt by  
5 all who knew and loved her, especially her husband, Samuel; her  
6 daughters, Yolanda (Dante) Blanks and Linetta Sykes-Ayanlaja  
7 (Hakeem); her grandsons, Desmond, Darns, Quentin, and Raphael;  
8 her granddaughter, Glori; her great-grandson, Dailen; her  
9 brother, Rev. Andrew Payton; her aunt, Flora Moore; her  
10 sister-in-law, Anna Marie Payton; her stepsons, Silas (Orgean)  
11 Freeman and George (Juliet) Freeman; her stepdaughters, Brenda  
12 (John) Shannon and Loretta Herron; her goddaughters, Melanie  
13 and Jennifer; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives,  
14 friends, and her church family; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
17 Helen Jean Sykes-Freeman and extend our sincerest condolences  
18 to her family, friends, and community; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to her family as an expression of our deepest  
21 sympathy.