



SR0874

LRB095 22608 GRL 53015 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to  
3 learn of the death of Anna R. Langford of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford was born to Arthur and Alice  
5 Riggs on October 27, 1917 in Springfield, Ohio; she was the  
6 youngest of three siblings; and

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WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford was raised by her grandmother  
8 after her parents died; and

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WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford moved to Chicago in 1933 to live  
with her aunt and uncle; and

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WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford graduated from Hyde Park High  
School and then attended the Washburn Trade School; and

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WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford started her professional career  
as a typist in the Social Security office; she then relocated  
to the Election Commissioner's office, where she aided in  
setting up a permanent registration system; and

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WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford later worked for and managed the  
old Secretary of State office on Cottage Grove Avenue in  
Chicago; and

1           WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford married Larry Langford in 1947;  
2           and

3           WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford attended John Marshall Law School  
4           to become an attorney; while pursuing her goal, she had a son,  
5           Larry Jr., in 1952; and

6           WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford moved with her family to the  
7           Englewood neighborhood, integrating the 6000 block of Bishop  
8           Street; and

9           WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford would later join Hope  
10          Presbyterian Church; and

11          WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford was admitted to the Illinois Bar  
12          in 1956; however, as a black attorney, she was refused office  
13          space in downtown Chicago; and

14          WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford set up a neighborhood practice  
15          and provided legal representation to the poor on matters  
16          ranging from divorce to criminal defense to bankruptcy; and

17          WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford spent much of her time in the  
18          1960s providing free legal services to the residents of  
19          Mississippi, under dangerous conditions, as they sought to gain

1 voting rights; and

2 WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford worked closely with Dr. Martin  
3 Luther King and a young Jesse Jackson to protest segregation  
4 and discrimination in Chicago; and

5 WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford successfully challenged the  
6 regular organization in 1971, winning the seat of Alderman of  
7 the 16th Ward and becoming the first black female alderman in  
8 the history of the Chicago City Council; and

9 WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford went on to serve three terms and  
10 was an avid supporter of Mayor Harold Washington; and

11 WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford retired from the Chicago City  
12 Council in 1991 but remained active in local politics, always  
13 working to improve her beloved neighborhood of Englewood, where  
14 she would spend the balance of her life; and

15 WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford has received many humanitarian  
16 and civic awards and citations during her lifetime; and

17 WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford was called home to glory on  
18 September 17, 2008; and

19 WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford was preceded in death by her

1 parents, Arthur and Alice Riggs, and her husband, Larry  
2 Langford; and

3 WHEREAS, Anna R. Langford is survived by her son, Lawrence  
4 W. Langford Jr., her grandchildren, Michael, Leslie, and Kris  
5 Hicks, her step grandson, Richard Pegue, her daughter-in-law,  
6 Marguerita, her great-grandson, Christopher; her niece, Cheryl  
7 Williams; her nephew, Arlester Jones; and her long-time  
8 friends, Nanny Ryan, Lillian Merrill, and Grace Edwards;  
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
12 her family and friends, the passing of Anna R. Langford; and be  
13 it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to the family of Anna R. Langford as an expression of  
16 our sympathy.