



HR0539

LRB096 13366 GRL 28072 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Marcus Alexis; and

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WHEREAS, Marcus Alexis was born on February 26, 1932 in Brooklyn, New York to Joseph William and Eliza Jane Alexis; undeterred by poor vision as a child, he excelled in the New York public school system, earning the grades to attend Brooklyn College; and

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WHEREAS, After receiving his bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College, Marcus Alexis embarked on a truly exceptional academic and professional journey, earning his master's degree in finance from Michigan State University in 1954 and his doctorate in economics from the University of Minnesota in 1959; he also performed post-doctoral work at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and

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WHEREAS, Marcus Alexis was a nationally recognized scholar; he was widely known for his expertise on urban economics and public policy, particularly race and poverty issues, and on regulation and management strategy, especially surface transportation, rail, and trucking strategies; his expertise led him to numerous leadership positions in

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1 government and finance, including his appointment as director  
2 of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in 1985 and service as  
3 the bank's deputy chairman and chairman in 1990; in 1979, he  
4 was appointed to the Interstate Commerce Commission by  
5 President Jimmy Carter, serving as commissioner, vice  
6 chairman, and acting chairman for over two years; and

7 WHEREAS, Marcus Alexis had a long and distinguished career  
8 in education; he held faculty posts at Macalester College,  
9 DePaul University, and the University of Rochester; in 1970, he  
10 joined the faculty at Northwestern University as a professor of  
11 economics and served as chairman of the economics department  
12 from 1976 to 1979 and from 1982 to 1985; in 1985, he joined the  
13 University of Illinois at Chicago as Dean of the School of  
14 Business, where he remained until he returned to the  
15 Northwestern faculty in 1991 as a Board of Trustees Professor  
16 of Economics, Management and Strategy, and African-American  
17 Studies; in 2005, he retired and became Professor Emeritus of  
18 Management & Strategy at the Northwestern University Kellogg  
19 School of Management; and

20 WHEREAS, Marcus Alexis was instrumental in the founding of  
21 a program in 1974 that identified and supported promising  
22 minority undergraduate students to pursue doctorate degrees in  
23 economics; many of today's luminaries in the economics field  
24 are beneficiaries of the program; the program, which is

1 supported by the American Economic Association and the National  
2 Economic Association and funded by the Ford Foundation,  
3 continues to this day; and

4 WHEREAS, Marcus Alexis was preceded in death by his  
5 brothers, Rudolph, John, Calvin, and George, and his sister,  
6 Victoria Sophia; and

7 WHEREAS, Marcus Alexis' greatest pleasure in life was his  
8 family, which includes his wife of nearly 40 years, Geraldine;  
9 his daughter, Hilary Alexis; his sons, Marcus II and Sean; his  
10 grandchildren, Eliza, Myles, and Cole; his sister, Doris  
11 Douglas, his daughters-in-law, Sahara Alexis and Aldona  
12 Clottey; his sister-in-law, Doris Alexis; and his numerous  
13 nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
15 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
16 mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of Marcus  
17 Alexis; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to the family of Marcus Alexis as an expression of  
20 our sympathy.