



HR1457

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Bishop
4 Arthur M. Brazier of Chicago, who passed away on October 22,
5 2010; and

6 WHEREAS, Bishop Arthur M. Brazier was the Pastor Emeritus
7 of the Apostolic Church of God, which is located in the
8 Woodlawn community of Chicago; he was born in 1921 in Chicago
9 to Robert and Geneva Brazier; he was raised on the south side
10 of Chicago and attended Douglas Elementary School and Wendell
11 Phillips High School; and

12 WHEREAS, Bishop Brazier was a World War II Army Veteran,
13 serving overseas in India and Burma in 1943, and returning in
14 December of 1945; in July 1947, he met his future wife, Esther
15 Isabelle Holmes, and they were married February 21, 1948; in
16 1955, while still being employed with the U.S. Postal Service
17 as a letter carrier, he enrolled in the Moody Bible Institute
18 evening school to acquire formal systematic biblical training;
19 he pursued these studies continuously for 6 years and received
20 his graduating certificate in 1961; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1960, Bishop Brazier was inducted as pastor of
22 Apostolic Church of God; Bishop Brazier also served as diocesan

1 of the Sixth Episcopal District of the Pentecostal Assemblies
2 of the World for 31 years; Bishop Brazier began his community
3 work with the Industrial Areas Foundation under the tutelage of
4 Saul Alinsky and Nicholas Von Hoffman; during his work with
5 Saul Alinsky, Bishop Brazier became the founding president of
6 The Woodlawn Organization in 1961; in 1966, Bishop Brazier
7 invited Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to the Apostolic Church of
8 God for its annual Bible Conference; their like passion for
9 civil rights led the 2 men to protest together against
10 segregated housing and schools in Chicago; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1969, Bishop Brazier accepted a staff position
12 with the Citizens Crusade Against Poverty, and in 1970, he
13 resigned as President of The Woodlawn Organization; in addition
14 to his pastoral work, Bishop Brazier joined the staff of the
15 Center for Community Change, a Washington-based institution
16 that gave technical assistance to community organizations in
17 various parts of the country; after several years of service
18 with the Center, he was elevated to the office of Vice
19 President in charge of Major Projects, and remained in that
20 position until 1986 when he resigned to spend more time with
21 his church; and

22 WHEREAS, Bishop Brazier was the founding chairman of the
23 Board of the Woodlawn Preservation and Investment Corporation
24 (WPIC), a community-based group organized for the improvement

1 of the Woodlawn community, and was also the founding chairman
2 of The Fund for Community Redevelopment and Revitalization; by
3 the appointment of Mayor Richard Daley, Bishop Brazier sat on
4 the Board of the Public Building Commission of Chicago for 20
5 years before resigning due to failing health; he also chaired
6 the Executive Committee of the New Communities
7 Program/Woodlawn, an affiliate of the Local Initiative Support
8 Corporation (LISC), and the Woodlawn Children's Promise
9 Community (WCPC); Bishop Brazier retired from the pastorate of
10 the Apostolic Church of God on June 1, 2008; and

11 WHEREAS, Bishop Brazier is survived by his wife, Esther
12 Isabelle Brazier, his children, Lola Hillman, Dr. Byron T.
13 Brazier (pastor of the Apostolic Church of God), Janice Dortch,
14 and Rosalyn Shepherd; his 7 grandchildren, and his 11
15 great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
18 mourn, along with his family, friends, and congregation, the
19 passing of Bishop Arthur Brazier; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Bishop Arthur Brazier as a symbol of
22 our sincere sympathy.