



HR1512

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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 Dr.
4 Margaret Burroughs, a longtime Chicago Park District
5 commissioner who started the nationally recognized DuSable
6 Museum of African American History in the living room of her
7 South Side home almost 50 years ago, who passed away on
8 November 21, 2010; and

9 WHEREAS, She and her husband, the late Charles Burroughs,
10 co-founded the DuSable Museum in 1961, and she was one of
11 several artists and art supporters who 70 years ago started the
12 South Side Community Art Center; and

13 WHEREAS, She was born in St. Rose, Louisiana, and moved to
14 Chicago as a child; she attended the Chicago Teachers College
15 and received bachelor's and master's degrees from the Art
16 Institute of Chicago; she later received several honorary
17 degrees; and

18 WHEREAS, She taught for more than 20 years at DuSable High
19 School; she also taught at Kennedy-King College; in her early
20 20s, she joined several others in starting the South Side
21 Community Art Center; she set up a legendary salon in
22 Bronzeville, which attracted the likes of sociologist W.E.B.

1 DuBois and writer James Baldwin; she was unhappy that there
2 were few places for black artists to showcase their work, and
3 helped launch an art fair in the late 1950s at a shopping
4 center at 35th Street and King Drive; and

5 WHEREAS, She and her husband later planted the seeds for
6 what would become a thriving museum with about 100 items in
7 their living room, calling it the Ebony Museum of Negro History
8 and Art; today, the DuSable Museum, boasts a collection of more
9 than 100,000 pieces in its Washington Park building; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Burroughs also helped start the National
11 Conference of African-American Artists; she taught art and
12 poetry to prison inmates; for the last 35 years, she and
13 Reverend Jesse Jackson spent Christmas Day at the Cook County
14 Jail; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Burroughs bowled and took up roller-skating
16 in her 80s; in 1989, she was inducted into the Chicago Women's
17 Hall of Fame; former President Jimmy Carter appointed her a
18 member of the National Commission on African-American History
19 and Culture; she won the Paul Robeson Award; most recently,
20 Mrs. Burroughs received the Legacy Award from the Art Institute
21 of Chicago; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Margaret Burroughs is survived by her son,

1 Paul Burroughs; her grandson, Eric Toller; and three other
2 grandchildren; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
5 mourn, along with her family, friends, and the many people she
6 has inspired over the years, the passing of Dr. Margaret
7 Burroughs; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Dr. Margaret Burroughs as a symbol
10 of our sincere sympathy.