



HR1122

LRB097 21765 KXB 70282 r

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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 Iola  
4 McGowan of Chicago, who passed away on May 24, 2012; and

5           WHEREAS, Iola McGowan was born on September 8, 1936; proud  
6 of her West Side roots, she graduated from Farragut High School  
7 in 1954; she started a family and spearhead neighborhood  
8 efforts in her area; she later graduated from Northeastern  
9 Illinois University; and

10           WHEREAS, She began her political career at the precinct  
11 level; she ascended through the ranks of the Democratic Party  
12 to become the Director of Consumer Services for the City of  
13 Chicago under former Mayor Jane Byrne, serving a 6-year term;  
14 she was then appointed to head the Model Cities Community  
15 Services program; she also developed an innovative classroom  
16 coloring book to teach children about becoming educated  
17 consumers; and

18           WHEREAS, She was a former Vice Chairman of the Illinois  
19 State Democratic Party and the Democratic National Committee;  
20 and she served as a Chicago Park District Commissioner; and

21           WHEREAS, Iola McGowan was known as the "First Lady of the

1 Westside" and served as the 29th Ward Committeeman for 4 years;  
2 she also served on the Board of Cook County Department of  
3 Corrections; and

4 WHEREAS, Iola McGowan was preceded in death by her husband,  
5 Adam "Donald" McGowan; her mother, Ernestine Martin; and her  
6 sister, Anna Pearson; and

7 WHEREAS, Iola McGowan is survived by her children, Rhonda  
8 Stivers (fiance, Matthew), Gregory McGowan (Patricia), and  
9 Allison McGowan (fiance, Shawn); her sister, Laverne Schaffer;  
10 her grandchildren, Jason Stivers, Ashley McGowan, and Whitney  
11 McGowan; and a host of nieces, nephews, family members, and  
12 friends; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15 we mourn, along with her family and friends, the passing of  
16 Iola McGowan; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to the family of Iola McGowan as a symbol of our  
19 sincere sympathy.