



HR1162

LRB097 21848 GRL 70540 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 Roger E.
4 Walker Jr., who passed away on March 10, 2012; and

5 WHEREAS, Roger Walker Jr. was born on February 7, 1949 in
6 Brownsville, Tennessee; he was the son of Roger E. Walker Sr.
7 and Ida (Currie) Walker Lake; he married Vergie Eubanks on
8 August 28, 1971; and

9 WHEREAS, Roger Walker Jr. was educated in Decatur public
10 schools and was a graduate of Richland Community College; he
11 also had over 2,000 hours of law enforcement training; and

12 WHEREAS, Roger Walker Jr. served our country with pride and
13 distinction as a member of the United States Navy; and

14 WHEREAS, Roger Walker Jr. began his distinguished law
15 enforcement career in the Decatur area as a patrol officer with
16 the Macon County Sheriff's Department in 1972; he steadily
17 ascended the ranks at the department to become patrol sergeant,
18 detective, and lieutenant; in 1998, he was elected to serve as
19 the Sheriff of Macon County, being the first African-American
20 sheriff in the State of Illinois; he sought re-election in 2002
21 and ran unopposed; on May 1, 2003, he was appointed to serve as

1 the Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections by
2 Governor Rod Blagojevich; and

3 WHEREAS, Roger Walker Jr. was a member of the Main Street
4 Church of the Living God under the leadership of his brother,
5 Overseer Thomas E. Walker; he was also a part of the church's
6 music ministry, where he played the saxophone; and

7 WHEREAS, Roger Walker Jr. was a member of numerous
8 community and professional organizations; he served as
9 Vice-President of the National Organization of Black Law
10 Enforcement Executives' Land of Lincoln Chapter and Decatur
11 Chapter Frontiers International and was a member of the Black
12 Chamber of Commerce, the NABCJ-Greater Illinois Area Chapter,
13 the Illinois Sheriffs Association, the National Sheriffs
14 Association, the Executive Board of Youth With A Positive
15 Direction, the NAACP, Unit #99/FOP Lodge #144, the
16 African-American Cultural and Genealogical Society of Illinois
17 Inc., the State of Illinois Child Advocacy Board, the Illinois
18 State Advisory Board/Fight Crime: Invest In Kids, and the
19 Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board; and

20 WHEREAS, Roger Walker Jr. was preceded in death by his
21 wife; his father; his grandparents; and his aunts, uncles, and
22 cousins; and

1 WHEREAS, Roger Walker Jr. is survived by his mother, Ida
2 Walker Lake; his daughters, Robin Ketchens and Tammie (Rick)
3 Shaw; his brothers, Overseer Thomas E. (Margaret) Walker,
4 Arthur Lee (Terri) Walker, and Timothy Lake; his sister, Hilda
5 Walker; his grandchildren, Courtney N. Lee, Daa'iyah Ketchens,
6 and Marion Ketchens, Jr.; his fiancée, Debra Watson; his uncle,
7 Horace (Dimple) Walker; his aunts, Mary Ann Boyd, Doris
8 Lawrence, Jean (A.D.) Brooks, and Liz and Beulah Currie; his
9 special sister, Diane Bond; his special brothers, Larry Bond
10 and William Martin, Jr.; his special aunt, Mildred Taylor, and
11 his many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and his many
12 friends at the Macon County Sheriff Department, the Illinois
13 Department of Corrections, and the Decatur community;
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
16 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of
18 Roger E. Walker Jr.; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Roger Walker Jr. as an expression of
21 our sympathy.