



SR1045

LRB097 23702 GRL 72803 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of the Rev. Dr. Lewis Flowers, who passed away on December 9, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, The Rev. Dr. Flowers grew up in Chicago, in the Cabrini-Green public housing complex; he served his country as a member of the United States Army in Vietnam before returning to Chicago, where he worked with young people as an employee of Chicago Public Schools; and

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WHEREAS, The Rev. Dr. Flowers began studying for the ministry in the 1970s and was ordained in 1977; he was the founding pastor of the Austin Community Ministries, as well as a former president of the Westside Ministers Coalition and chairman of the Coalition's board; and

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WHEREAS, The Rev. Dr. Flowers was known for his battles on social justice on the West Side of Chicago, particularly in the Austin community; as a spokesman for the Community Reinvestment Organizing Project, he requested that Mayor Rahm Emanuel include Austin, which reportedly led in the number of foreclosures, in the mayor's \$15 million Micro-Market Recovery Program; he fought to keep open the Austin Business and Entrepreneurship Academy High School, one of 3 smaller schools

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1 now operating in the former Austin High School building; he was
2 heavily involved in getting the school started as a contract
3 school; his efforts also led to Chicago's designation in 1994
4 as a federal empowerment zone, a designation that brought with
5 it a total of \$100 million over 2 years to promote economic
6 development and jobs in several areas of the city; and

7 WHEREAS, The Rev. Dr. Flowers is survived by his wife,
8 Cynthia; his sons, Durand, Duwone, and Elijah; his daughters,
9 Lanita Joyner and Blaire Flowers; his brothers, Victor,
10 Cornelius, and Dennis; his sisters, Lorinda Givens, Jocelyn
11 Flowers, and Aretha Johnson; his 9 grandchildren; and his
12 great-grandchild; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
15 his family and friends, the passing of the Rev. Dr. Lewis
16 Flowers; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of the Rev. Dr. Lewis Flowers as an
19 expression of our sympathy.