



HR0937

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Barbara Jean (nee  
4 Matthews) Gleghorn on the occasion of her 80th birthday on  
5 April 19, 2014; and

6           WHEREAS, Barbara Gleghorn was born in the city of  
7 Carbondale to an African American railroad worker named Robert  
8 Matthews, who relocated to Carbondale after changing his  
9 surname to flee the noose of intolerance and bigotry in the  
10 South, marrying Lou Della Griffin, the daughter of a plantation  
11 owner from Carruthers, Mississippi, they raised 9 children; and

12           WHEREAS, Barbara Gleghorn was the 5th child, with the  
13 children affectionately calling their parents "Daddie" and  
14 "Dea"; due to only having an 8th-grade education, Robert and  
15 Lou Della misspelled their daughter's name as "B-A-BR-A" on her  
16 birth certificate; and

17           WHEREAS, Throughout her youth, Barbara Gleghorn, nicknamed  
18 "Bobbie", studied hard to rise above her station of poverty to  
19 become a writer on her school newspaper; and

20           WHEREAS, Barbara Gleghorn attended Crispus Attucks School  
21 and earned a scholarship in the sport of tennis allowing her to

1 attend Southern Illinois University in Carbondale as a student,  
2 with an English major and business minor; and

3 WHEREAS, Barbara Gleghorn fell in love with a young man,  
4 whom she would accept as her fiance, only to mourn his death  
5 after a car train accident and then discovering she was with  
6 child; and

7 WHEREAS, Barbara Gleghorn welcomed her 1st child into this  
8 world in 1953, then at 19-years-old, moved to Springfield to  
9 stay at the boarding house formerly used as the now-historic  
10 Colored Folks Orphanage and, upon marrying Charles Price,  
11 subsequently was blessed with 6 other children; and

12 WHEREAS, Alan, Evelyn, Charlotte, Charles, Patricia,  
13 James, and Jacqueline were reared by their parents in a loving  
14 environment in the city of Springfield while also attending St.  
15 John's African Methodist Episcopal Church for several years  
16 before joining St. Paul AME Church; and

17 WHEREAS, For more than 50 years, Barbara Gleghorn has been  
18 a member of the little red church at 16th and Stuart streets in  
19 Springfield, where she currently holds the offices of  
20 Past-President of the Estella Thompson Women's Missionary  
21 Society, as well as being a member of the Steward Board and  
22 serving the Lord in the adult Gospel Choir; and

1           WHEREAS, Barbara Gleghorn's dedication and spirituality  
2 called her to serve also as a member, past-President of the  
3 local chapter, Area Chair, and Vice-President of the State  
4 Chapter of Church Women United with offices in the United  
5 Nations in New York City, serving the meek and needy citizens  
6 of this world; and

7           WHEREAS, Barbara Gleghorn supported and became a member of  
8 the Jerome Irwin Republican Club in Springfield and helped her  
9 son, Charles Price, to become one of the few black youths to  
10 work as a page on the floor of the Illinois House of  
11 Representatives for Republican legislators; and

12           WHEREAS, Barbara Gleghorn retired from working for the  
13 State of Illinois after 35 years and later periodically worked  
14 for Springfield Public School District 186 as a substitute,  
15 retiring again to do charitable work and with the James Weldon  
16 Johnson Literary Guild, founded after members became friends  
17 with James Weldon Johnson; and

18           WHEREAS, Barbara Gleghorn volunteered with the Parent  
19 Helpline to help new mothers learn how to care for their  
20 babies, and is active with AMVETS Auxiliary to ensure that  
21 military veterans receive the honors they deserve; and

1           WHEREAS, After the end of her marriage to Charles, Barbara  
2 married Alexander Gleghorn, whom she loved and cared for until  
3 he lost a battle with cancer; and

4           WHEREAS, Despite the tragic and heart-wrenching passing  
5 away of her fourth child Charles Philip Price, Barbara Gleghorn  
6 holds on to her unfaltering faith in a higher being greater  
7 than she professing the words of the gospel spiritual, "I don't  
8 feel no ways tired. I've come to far from where I started from.  
9 Nobody told me, the road would be easy. I don't believe He  
10 brought me this far, to leave me," to keep soldiering on; and

11           WHEREAS, On April 18th and 19th, 2014, friends and family  
12 including her 6 surviving children, her step-children, her 22  
13 grandchildren, her 41 great-grandchildren, and her 2  
14 great-great-grandchildren, will fete her ceremoniously at the  
15 Springfield Park District's Erin's Pavilion in Southwind Park  
16 with laughter, food, and fun to honor a woman who, through her  
17 charitable work, has helped hundreds of friends who are known  
18 and unknown; therefore, be it

19           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
20 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 we honor Barbara Jean Gleghorn on the occasion of her 80th  
22 birthday and wish her well in all of her future endeavors; and  
23 be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to Barbara Jean Gleghorn as an expression of our  
3 esteem and respect.