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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 Sylvia B. Washington, who passed away on January 11, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Sylvia Washington was born on March 4, 1956; her parents were James and Leora Branch; she married Aaron Washington on July 11, 1987; and

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WHEREAS, Sylvia Washington graduated from Dunbar High School in 1974; she subsequently attended Daley College to pursue an associate's degree; and

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WHEREAS, Sylvia Washington worked at the Core of Engineers, Continental Bank, and Heller Financial until she accepted a position as a part-time receptionist for Chicago 18th Ward Alderman Thomas Murphy, where she served faithfully for 14 years; through her dedication to the 18th Ward, she later became the 40th Precinct captain and assistant to the Alderman; as assistant to the Alderman, her duties included taking complaints and taking city service and infrastructure requests from 18th Ward residents; and

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WHEREAS, Upon the election of Chicago 18th Ward Alderman Lona Lane, Sylvia Washington joined her staff and served as

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1 Chief of Staff of the 18th Ward Alderman for 5 years;  
2 throughout her service with Alderman Lane, she worked on  
3 obtaining various infrastructure projects for the community,  
4 such as repairs to the streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and  
5 obtaining new street lights; she sat on the board of directors  
6 for Wrightwood Community Development Corporation and served as  
7 Commissioner for Southwest Guaranteed Home Equity; she worked  
8 closely with developers on planning new schools, dialysis  
9 centers, Ultra Foods stores, and restaurants; she also planned  
10 and scheduled the alderman's daily meetings; and

11 WHEREAS, Sylvia Washington was a member of Trinity United  
12 Church of Christ under the leadership of Pastor Otis Moss III;  
13 in her youth, she sang lead in the family choir, gave prophecy,  
14 and delivered sermons; and

15 WHEREAS, Sylvia Washington was preceded in death by her  
16 grandparents; her father and stepfather; her 2 brothers; and  
17 her sister; and

18 WHEREAS, Sylvia Washington will be dearly missed by her  
19 mother, Leora Lockett; her husband, Aaron Washington; her  
20 siblings, Aaron Branch (Deborah), Doretha Davis (Michael),  
21 Betty Sanders, Cynthia Smith, Shelia Jackson (Jack), Caryscine  
22 Branch (Juanita), Kevin Branch, Kenneth Branch, and  
23 Christopher Branch; her 29 nephews and nieces; and her many

1 great-nieces, great-nephews, and friends; therefore, be it

2       RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
4 her family and friends, the passing of Sylvia B. Washington;  
5 and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the family of Sylvia Washington as an expression  
8 of our sympathy.