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SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Leroy W. "Sonny" Jackson, who passed away on April 10, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Sonny Jackson was born on October 25, 1943 to the late Andrew Jackson and Florence Walker in Hammonds, Louisiana; he was the eldest of 4 children; he attended grammar school in Markham and high school at Thorton Township, where he was the star of the football team; and

WHEREAS, Sonny Jackson was a trained and skilled glazier for over 40 years, thanks to his father who owned a glass company on the west side of Chicago; he also worked as a glazier for the Chicago Housing Authority and the HT Glass Company; and

WHEREAS, Sonny Jackson had a daughter, April, from his first marriage; he later married Jean Jackson in 1979; by marrying Jean, he became a father to John and Tony Jones; and

WHEREAS, Sonny Jackson and his wife founded the non-profit organization "Eyes on Austin" on Chicago's far west side in 1999, an achievement that stood out as his proudest accomplishment; he worked tirelessly at Eyes on Austin,

1 training future craftsmen in various job training programs and  
2 leading Austin's Labor of Love, an annual volunteer event to  
3 repair the homes of those in need in the Austin community; and

4 WHEREAS, Sonny Jackson loved returning to Louisiana, which  
5 he did as often as he could; family reunions were one of his  
6 favorite things; in his later years, he enjoyed watching  
7 westerns with his wife and his beloved cat, Levi, who was  
8 always by his side; and

9 WHEREAS, Sonny Jackson was preceded in death by his  
10 parents; his stepmother, Olivia Jackson; a brother, Jimmie; a  
11 stepsister, Mary; and a stepson, John Jones; and

12 WHEREAS, Sonny Jackson is survived by his beloved wife of  
13 35 years, Jean; his daughter, April; his stepson, Tony; his  
14 sister, Vivian (Joseph); his stepsisters, Joyce and Lois; his  
15 stepbrothers, Michael and Derrick; his grandchildren, Marissa  
16 and Maurice Jones; his in-laws, Sharon Franklin and Donald  
17 McNeal; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends;  
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his  
21 family and friends, mourn the passing of Leroy W. "Sonny"  
22 Jackson; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to the family of Sonny Jackson as an expression of  
3 our sympathy.