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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Roy M. Chappell of Chicago, who passed away September 22, 2002 at the age of 81; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Chappell was a native of Williamsburg, Kentucky, and graduated from Monroe High School in Monroe, Michigan in the top 10% of his graduating class; he lettered in football and track; he was the only African-American in his high school graduation class of 250 students; he then attended Kentucky State College where he was an Honor Roll student, President of his sophomore and junior classes, 1st President of the Kentucky State Co-Op Association, on the Who's Who List in his junior year, and the Most Versatile Student in his junior year; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Chappell left college to serve his country in World War II where he became a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American aviator unit in World War II; he was in Tuskegee Pilot Training Class 44-D; he graduated from Navigation School at Hondo, Texas in Class 4411-9B and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant; he graduated from Midland, Texas Bombardier School in Class 454B; and he served at Godman Field in the 477th Bombardment Group and at Freeman Field, where he participated in the "Freeman Field Mutiny" during which 104 African-American officers protested unequal treatment by the military by attempting to enter a "whites only" officers' club; by doing so, he risked his own freedom for the future advancement of others; he received a Letter of Reprimand on his record that was only expunged 50 years later by Presidential Order; the Freeman Field Mutiny is widely credited with creating the pressure that eventually ended all official racial discrimination in the military; and

1           WHEREAS, After his World War II service, Mr. Chappell  
2 graduated from Roosevelt University in Chicago with a  
3 Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology; he worked as  
4 supervisor of a postal unit; he was an educator for thirty  
5 years, teaching grades 3-8, Special Education and Counseling;  
6 he was also Assistant Principal of Carnegie School in  
7 Chicago; he retired from the Board of Education in 1985; and

8           WHEREAS, Mr. Chappell was the longtime President of  
9 Chicago's Tuskegee Airmen "DODO" Chapter; he received the  
10 highest award ever given a Tuskegee Airman, the Noel Parrish  
11 Award and the National President's Award (no one had ever  
12 received those two awards at the same time); the period of  
13 Mr. Chappell's leadership saw great amounts raised in  
14 contributions and grants for the programs of Tuskegee Airmen,  
15 Inc.; he was Governor of the National History Museum for  
16 seven years; and

17           WHEREAS, Mr. Chappell's many civic awards included the  
18 Humanitarian Award for Young Eagles Program from the  
19 Experimental Aircraft Association in 2002; the National  
20 Leadership Award from Phillips Petroleum Company at the EEA  
21 Air Venture Convention at Oshkosh, Wisconsin in 2001; and the  
22 Merrill C. Meigs Spirit of Flight Award for 2002 for  
23 "Preserving and Improving the Endangered Lakefront Airport";  
24 and

25           WHEREAS, Mr. Chappell's many civic activities included  
26 service as: Chairman of the Board of the Friends of Meigs  
27 Field; member of the Burnside Local School Council; Treasurer  
28 of the Block Club; Superintendent of Sunday School for ten  
29 years; Teacher of Sunday School for twenty years; and member  
30 of the Chesterfield Community Council; and

31           WHEREAS, Roy M. Chappell will be deeply missed by all  
32 those who knew and loved him, especially his wife, Dr. Lucy

1 Lang-Chappell; his daughters, Camille Chappell-Johnson and  
2 Kathy Chappell; and his grandchildren, Rashid Johnson, Kahil  
3 Johnson, and Amirah Johnson; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6 we mourn, along with all those who knew him and loved him,  
7 the passing of Roy M. Chappell; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
9 presented to the family of Roy M. Chappell with our sincere  
10 condolences.