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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 Dr. Reginald Sykes, who passed away on July 25, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Sykes was born in Chicago to Mattie Bell (Thomas) Williams and Larry James Sykes on September 5, 1939; he graduated from Richard T. Crane Medical Preparatory High School, where he played baseball and developed a love of science; he earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis, Tennessee, where he met and married Robbie Jean Mangum; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Sykes joined the Chicago Police Department in the early 1960s and became an officer in the newly established Gang Tactical Unit; having witnessed the impact of economic and educational inequality within his community, he became determined to work to make things better and decided to further his education by obtaining a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago and a medical doctorate from Northwestern University; he was awarded major fellowships in psychiatry from the American Psychiatric Association and the National Institute of Mental Health; he worked at Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's Hospital and completed his psychiatric residency at The University of Chicago Medical Center; he

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1 served as executive director for the Mid-America Chapter of the
2 American Red Cross; he worked for Abbott Laboratories,
3 reviewing medical and scientific studies to modify and approve
4 clinical drug trials in both the United States and Canada;
5 while serving as chairman of the Dialysis Strategy Committee at
6 Abbott, he helped organize, identify, and develop new products,
7 supervising clinical trial drug testing for dialysis patients;
8 he then started his own firm, Quality Research Services, Inc.,
9 that identified and recruited diverse African American
10 participants for important life-saving clinical trials; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Sykes was a member of Ebenezer Missionary
12 Baptist Church; he also visited Apostolic Church of God in
13 Christ; he was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and
14 an avid fisherman; at least four times a year, he and his good
15 friend, Walter Dale "Uncle Butch", went to Onalaska Wisconsin,
16 where legend has it that a giant 15-pound Northern Pike once
17 found its way on to the end of his hook; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Sykes was preceded in death by his wife,
19 Robbie, and his parents; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Sykes is survived by his children, Regina
21 Sykes (Stephen Hawkins), Rhonda Sykes-Willis (Gregory),
22 Reginald Sykes II (Renee), and Michael Shelton; his
23 grandchildren, Robbie, Raven, Imani, Robynn, and Reginald III;

1 his brother, Larry Sykes; his very dear and close friends that
2 were like brothers, Joe Davenport, Walter Dale, Vance Kimber,
3 Dr. Jim Miller, and former mayor of Memphis, Tennessee, Willie
4 Harrington; his good friend, Shirley Cockerham; his caretaker,
5 Chasity Daniels; and numerous friends from coast to coast;
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
9 Dr. Reginald Sykes, and extend our sincere condolences to his
10 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Dr. Sykes as an expression of our
14 deepest sympathy.