



HR0475

LRB101 13099 ALS 61935 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Nathan
4 "Nate" "Bobo" Smalls Jr. of Danville, who passed away on July
5 9, 2019; and

6 WHEREAS, Nate Smalls was born in Chatham County in
7 Savannah, Georgia to Nathan and Loretta Smalls; he moved to
8 Danville in 1969; and

9 WHEREAS, Nate Smalls was a member of the Indianapolis
10 Clowns, a team in the last Negro Baseball Barnstorming League,
11 from 1965 until 1986; he played for the team longer than any
12 other member; as a left-handed pitcher, he could throw a ball
13 97 miles per hour and was known for the ability to hold four
14 baseballs at once and pitch them to four different batters with
15 one throw; he was honored by the Indianapolis Indians minor
16 league baseball team during a special night at Victory Field in
17 the summer of 2018; and

18 WHEREAS, Nate Smalls was one of the founding members of the
19 Three Kings of Peace; the group volunteered daily as mentors in
20 the Danville schools in an effort to reduce violence in
21 schools; the group organized marches in the community to push
22 back against violence in the city; and

1 WHEREAS, Nate Smalls was one of the primary organizers of a
2 summer basketball league for young people at Garfield Park; in
3 recognition of his work with area youth, officials dedicated
4 the basketball courts in his honor in June 2017; and

5 WHEREAS, Nate Smalls was a tireless advocate for the young
6 people of his community; he worked to cultivate peace and
7 eliminate violence; he loved sports and was deeply committed to
8 his family; and

9 WHEREAS, Nate Smalls was preceded in death by his parents;
10 his daughter, Lukresia; his grandson, Nathan; his
11 great-granddaughter, Na'ryah; his brother, James Robe; and his
12 sister, Haddie Mae Thomas; and

13 WHEREAS, Nate Smalls is survived by his wife, Anita; his
14 daughters, Dana Williams, Leslie (Tyrone) Dunbar, and Brea
15 McGrown; his son, Darwin Baxter; his sisters-in-law, Bea Brown,
16 Ellen Brooks, Bertha Brandon, and Alice (Lee) Shields; his
17 favorite aunt, Angie Robe and uncle, Johnnie Brown; his aunts,
18 Patricia Ann Rutledge and Roslyn Robe; and many nieces,
19 nephews, cousins, friends, and loved ones; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
21 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we mourn the passing of Nathan "Nate" "Bobo" Smalls Jr. and
2 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all
3 who knew and loved him; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the family of Nate Smalls as an expression of our
6 deepest sympathy.