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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 Sonya Audrea Fields Ph.D. of Chicago, who passed away on January 9, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Sonya Fields was born in Chicago to Clinton B. and Roberta Usher Fields on November 28, 1981; when she was ten years old, she committed to her faith and was baptized at Bellevue Baptist Church; she attended Morgan Park High School, where she ran track and played volleyball; like her brothers, she also trained in Kuk Sool martial arts; she earned her high school diploma at the age of 16; she received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Chicago State University in 2003; she then earned her Master of Science in Reading from Chicago State University in 2007; in 2010, she was awarded her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from National Louis University; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Sonya Fields taught at several Chicago Public Schools; she most recently taught second grade at Arthur Dixon Elementary School; she was a tireless advocate for her students and created a nurturing classroom community with high expectations, where students considered each other family; she encouraged her students to persevere and assured them they could succeed, no matter the odds; her students especially appreciated her ability to illustrate how classroom skills are

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1 used by real people every day; she worked with other teachers  
2 to organize learning nights during the year to inform parents  
3 about the learning that was taking place inside the classroom;  
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5 WHEREAS, In 2015, Dr. Sonya Fields received the Golden  
6 Apple Award for her efforts to build a stronger,  
7 better-educated society; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Sonya Fields was service minded and never  
9 hesitated to help others; she cherished close relationships  
10 with family members and longtime friends, and she valued her  
11 sisterhood with her Alpha Kappa Alpha sorors; she loved her  
12 daughter and guided her with wisdom and faith; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Sonya Fields was preceded in death by her  
14 father; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Sonya Fields is survived by her mother; her  
16 husband, Joran Banks; her daughter, Heather Taylor; her  
17 brothers, Clinton B. (Erica) Fields Jr. and Randall B. (Lenika)  
18 Fields; her nephews and nieces, Clinton III, Lauren, Olivia,  
19 Austin, and Bryce; her aunts and uncles; her many cousins; and  
20 her friends with whom she felt a spiritual kinship and  
21 considered family of the heart; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
3 Sonya Audrea Fields Ph.D. and extend our sincere condolences to  
4 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
5 further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the family of Dr. Sonya Fields as an expression of  
8 our deepest sympathy.