



SR0740

LRB101 15017 MST 64056 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to
3 learn of the death of Merlin Kennedy; and

4 WHEREAS, Merlin Kennedy was a civil rights activist, a
5 community leader, and a past president of the
6 Bloomington/Normal branch of the NAACP; he was extremely
7 passionate about the success of the local branch of the NAACP;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Merlin Kennedy was best known for his efforts
10 related to the Fair Housing Act in Bloomington-Normal; he
11 worked tirelessly to assist the disenfranchised, ostracized,
12 and the down-trodden; and

13 WHEREAS, Merlin Kennedy was also known for appearing in a
14 Santa Claus suit during a city council meeting, protesting the
15 "One Santa Rule"; he was adamant about having a Black Santa in
16 his community and appeared in Jet magazine for his resistance
17 to racism and discrimination; and

18 WHEREAS, Merlin Kennedy was an icon and a great supporter
19 of the NAACP; he kept the NAACP relevant and engaged with the
20 community, which propelled the NAACP to thrive in the
21 Bloomington-Normal community; 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 Merlin Kennedy and extend our sincere condolences to his
4 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
5 further

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