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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the  
3 State of Illinois learned with great sadness of the death of  
4 noted journalist and community activist Lutrelle "Lu" Palmer on  
5 Sunday, September 12, 2004; and

6           WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer was born in Newport News, Virginia; he  
7 graduated from Virginia Union University in 1942, received his  
8 master's degree from Syracuse University in 1947, and his Ph.D.  
9 in Mass Media Communications from Iowa State University in  
10 1955; he is the recipient of an honorary degree from St.  
11 Martin's College and Seminary, which bestowed upon him a Doctor  
12 of Human Letters in 1983; and

13           WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer worked as a reporter for several  
14 Chicago papers including the Chicago Defender, the Chicago  
15 Courier, the Chicago American, and the Chicago Daily News,  
16 where he was also a syndicated columnist; he served as the  
17 editor of the Tri-State Defender, based in Nashville,  
18 Tennessee; he also worked as a recruiter, organizer, and  
19 preceptor for the Associated Colleges of the Midwest from 1970  
20 to 1990; and

21           WHEREAS, In addition to his work in newspapers, Mr. Palmer  
22 became famous through his radio broadcasts of "Lu's Notebook",  
23 which at one time was aired on four radio stations; at the end  
24 of his broadcast career, he hosted a night on WVON's "On  
25 Target" show; he was a writer and editorial director for  
26 Congressman Ralph Metcalfe in the 1970s and the 1980s, and he  
27 worked in public relations for Michael Reese Hospital in the  
28 1960s and 1970s; and

29           WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer was the founder of Chicago Black United  
30 Communities (CBUC) and served as chairman of the organization  
31 from 1979 until 1987; through his work at CBUC, he spear-headed

1 the move to elect Chicago's first African-American mayor,  
2 Harold Washington, through the "We Shall See in '83" campaign;  
3 he also founded the Black Independent Political Organization  
4 (BIPO) and the Black Business Network, and he founded, edited,  
5 and published the Black X-Press Info-Paper in Chicago from 1971  
6 to 1974; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer's final position was chairman of United  
8 Services of Chicago, Inc., where he was chairman of the Board  
9 of Directors of this State-funded program, a group living  
10 facility on Chicago's south side; and

11 WHEREAS, All over the country, Mr. Palmer conducted  
12 seminars and participated in workshops where his expertise and  
13 his messages have been that of imparting valuable information  
14 and providing direction for untold masses of people regarding  
15 the enrichment and lifting up of African Americans; in Chicago,  
16 he led such fights as the removal of asbestos from Chicago  
17 schools and the fight against the wrongful draft of African  
18 Americans in the armed services; behind the scenes, he helped  
19 in the mobilization to unseat Edward Hanrahan after the murders  
20 of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark of the Black Panther Party and  
21 also provided assistance in the mobilization against police  
22 brutality in the 1970s; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer provided vital research to the groups  
24 that fought over-crowding of schools in African-American  
25 neighborhoods and did the same for groups that coalesced to  
26 have the first African American selected as Superintendent of  
27 the Chicago School Board; and

28 WHEREAS, During his years of journalistic activism in the  
29 Chicago area, Mr. Palmer received several notable honors for  
30 his work; he was inducted into the Black Press Hall of Fame on  
31 October 22, 1989; in addition to his numerous awards and  
32 honors, he was a recipient of the Journalistic Excellence Award

1 given by the National Conference of Black Lawyers in 1977, the  
2 Frederick Douglas Award in 1998, the Jomo Kenyatta Award for  
3 Political Activism in 1994, and a Thank You Picture Plaque from  
4 Nelson Mandela and the ANC in 1990; and

5 WHEREAS, It was Lu Palmer who solidified KWANZAA as an  
6 African-American observance; on his radio program, he  
7 presented the Seven Principles of Nguzo Saba on a daily basis  
8 in an effort to help listeners understand, absorb, and seek  
9 more clarity and participation in African-based cultural  
10 rhythms; and

11 WHEREAS, The passing of Mr. Palmer has been deeply felt by  
12 many, especially his wife, Jorja Palmer; his three daughters;  
13 his two sons; his five grandchildren; and his two  
14 great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
17 mourn the passing of Lutrelle "Lu" Palmer, who leaves behind a  
18 legacy of impeccable integrity and an intense desire to correct  
19 injustice; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to the family of Mr. Palmer as an expression of our  
22 deepest sympathy during their time of bereavement.