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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 Gwendolyn Hayes, who passed away on June 23, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, Gwendolyn Hayes was born on June 30, 1936, in Summerlee, West Virginia; her parents were Reverend Walter N. Harris and Emma V. (Loving) Harris; she married Henry E. Hayes in June of 1962; and

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WHEREAS, Gwendolyn Hayes attended the First Baptist Church of Summerlee, where she accepted Christ at an early age; and

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WHEREAS, Gwendolyn Hayes graduated with honors in 1954 from DuBois High School in Mount Hope, West Virginia; after trying to attend college in West Virginia, she decided to relocate to Chicago, where she joined her first cousin, Margaret; after arriving in Chicago, she began to take night courses at DePaul University while working by day; she eventually found work as the first black keypunch machine operator for Reese Finer Foods; and

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WHEREAS, After completing her accounting studies at Wright Junior College and Northwestern University, Gwendolyn Hayes and her husband decided to venture into business for

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1 themselves; during this time, she opened an accounting office
2 on Chicago's West Side and began to invest in real estate;
3 throughout the years, she owned many businesses, including G &
4 H Hayes Management Service, the Sting-Rey, and the Chateau; she
5 was also the first female CEO of the WVON radio station; and

6 WHEREAS, After achieving her goals in life, Gwendolyn Hayes
7 decided to focus on her work for the Lord and returned home to
8 West Virginia, where she devoted herself to many activities
9 within her church; she held various titles at the church,
10 including superintendent of the Sunday School, Financial
11 Secretary and Board Trustee, Banquet Committee Chairman,
12 Corresponding Secretary, N.R.V.M. Missionary Clerk, and
13 N.R.V.M. Baptist Association Clerk; she was also the Treasurer
14 at the West Virginia Baptist Credit Union Association at the
15 Hilltop Baptist Center; and

16 WHEREAS, Gwendolyn Hayes was recognized by various
17 community organizations, newspapers, city officials, and
18 politicians, including former Mayor of Chicago, Harold
19 Washington; she was also the recipient of numerous awards,
20 including the Outstanding and Dedicated Community Service
21 Award, the Neighborhood Business Person of the Year, and the
22 Revlon and Black Woman Hall of Fame Foundation 1988 Bethune
23 Tubman Truth Award, among many others; and

1 WHEREAS, Gwendolyn Hayes was preceded in death by her
2 brother, Walter J. Harris (Babe); and

3 WHEREAS, Gwendolyn Hayes is survived by her husband, Henry;
4 her two children, Anita (Anthony) and Brian (Yolanda Renee),
5 her grandchildren, Qiana (Robert Eric), Donte (Willie), Toni,
6 LeNa, Avyance, Brian Jr., and Jayla; her great-grandchildren,
7 Elijah Tyrique, Eric Andrew, TaZaria Aquice, and Zion Amir; her
8 play mother, Leana Phillips; and her many nieces and nephews,
9 other family members, and friends; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
12 her family and friends, the passing of Gwendolyn Hayes; and be
13 it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the family of Gwendolyn Hayes as an expression of
16 our sympathy.