



HR0528

LRB100 13339 MST 27922 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Marlene
4 Lofton George Merchant, who passed away on June 26, 2017; and

5 WHEREAS, Marlene Merchant was born to Theodore and Eliza
6 Lofton on February 11, 1935; she received her formal education
7 in the East St. Louis School District; she married Odie F.
8 George Sr. in 1952 and they had eight children; later, she
9 married R. B. "Bernard" Merchant; and

10 WHEREAS, Marlene Merchant loved helping people, which led
11 her to go back to school to get her certificate as a nursing
12 assistant; she remained employed in the medical field for her
13 entire career until retirement; and

14 WHEREAS, Marlene Merchant was a former member of New
15 Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church; later, she became a member
16 of Shiloh Baptist Church in Joliet; she was also a member of
17 the Eastern Star; and

18 WHEREAS, Marlene Merchant was loved by all who knew her and
19 she helped anyone who needed it; she was affectionately known
20 as "Mama George"; she loved children and was often accompanied
21 by grandchildren whom she helped to care for while their

1 parents worked; she loved to travel and kept a bag packed for
2 an invitation to visit family and friends throughout the
3 country; she was a very strong woman, committed to her
4 church/civic groups, and loved to cook for anyone that was
5 hungry; and

6 WHEREAS, Marlene Merchant was preceded in death by her
7 parents; two sisters; four brothers; the father of her
8 children; her second husband, Bernard; her son, Eugene; her
9 daughters, Brenda (Charles, deceased) and Felicia (Curtis);
10 her grandson, Yamar Sr.; and her granddaughter, Shaniece; and

11 WHEREAS, Marlene Merchant is survived by her sisters, Alice
12 Burnette and Geraldine (Roosevelt) Dixon; her children, Marcia
13 (Mack) Williams, Maxine (Ricky) Williams, Greta (Charles)
14 Burns, Odie (Christine) George Jr., and Freda (Van) Johnson;
15 her sisters-in-law, Johnnie, Bunny, and Lou Bertha; 21
16 grandchildren, including State Representative Carol Ammons; 45
17 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews;
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
21 mourn the passing of Marlene Lofton George Merchant, and extend
22 our sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who
23 knew and loved her; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Marlene Merchant as an expression of
3 our deepest sympathy.