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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Rev. Dr. James Hal Cone, who passed away on April 28, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Cone was born in Fordyce, Arkansas; he attended Shorter College and graduated from Philander Smith College in Little Rock in 1958 with a Bachelor of Arts; he graduated from Garrett Theological Seminary with a Bachelor of Divinity in 1961 and received his Master of Arts from Northwestern University in 1963; two years later, a Ph.D. was conferred on him by Northwestern University; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Cone is known as the father of black liberation theology; he joined Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York in 1969 and was promoted to full professor of theology in 1973; he was named the Bill & Judith Moyers Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology in 2017; he researched and taught Christian theology, with special attention to black liberation theology and the liberation theologies of Africa, Asia, and Latin America; he also taught 19th and 20th-century European-American theologies; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Cone is an award-winning author; he penned Black Theology & Black Power (1969), A Black Theology of

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1 Liberation (1970), and God of the Oppressed (1975); his most  
2 recent book, The Cross and the Lynching Tree, was awarded the  
3 2018 Grawemeyer Award in Religion; and

4 WHEREAS, On April 18, 2018, Rev. Cone was elected to the  
5 2018 class of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences; among  
6 other numerous awards he received are the American Black  
7 Achievement Award in religion given by Ebony Magazine (November  
8 1992), the Fund for Theological Education Award for  
9 contributions to theological education and scholarship  
10 (November 1999), the Martin E. Marty Award for the Public  
11 Understanding of Religion (2009), and the Eliza Garrett  
12 Distinguished Service Award in recognition of seminal  
13 theological scholarship from Garrett-Evangelical Theological  
14 Seminary (2010); he received 13 honorary degrees, including an  
15 honoris causa from the Institut Protestant de Théologie in  
16 Paris, France; and

17 WHEREAS, Rev. Cone was an ordained minister in the African  
18 Methodist Episcopal Church; he was listed in the Directory of  
19 American Scholars, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American  
20 Religion, Who's Who Among African Americans, and Who's Who in  
21 the World; he was the author of 12 books and over 150 articles  
22 and lectured at many universities and community organizations  
23 throughout the United States, Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin  
24 America, and the Caribbean; and

1           WHEREAS, Rev. Cone was an active member of numerous  
2 professional societies, including the Society for the Study of  
3 Black Religion, the American Academy of Religion, and the  
4 Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians (EATWOT) in  
5 the Philippines; he was a founding member of the Society of  
6 Race, Ethnicity, and Religion (SRER); and

7           WHEREAS, Rev. Cone is survived by his sons, Michael and  
8 Charles; his daughters, Robynn and Krystal; and his  
9 grandchildren, Jolei and Miles; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
11 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
12 mourn the passing of Rev. Dr. James Hal Cone, and extend our  
13 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew  
14 and loved him; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to the family of Rev. Cone as an expression of our  
17 deepest sympathy.