



HR1121

LRB100 22148 MST 40555 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Rev.
4 Wallace Wyatt Sykes, who passed away on May 19, 2018; and

5 WHEREAS, Rev. Sykes was born in Starkville, Mississippi on
6 December 21, 1923; he moved to Maywood in 1943 and joined
7 Second Baptist Church; he entered the ministry in 1957 and
8 studied at the Chicago Baptist Institute; he was ordained in
9 1961 and become pastor a year later; he also studied at Crane
10 Junior College in Chicago, the Chicago Teachers College, the
11 Chicago Baptist Institute, and Elmhurst College; he did
12 postgraduate studies at Northeastern Illinois University and
13 the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard; in 1965,
14 he was given an honorary doctorate from the board of trustees
15 of the Easonian Baptist Theological Seminary in Birmingham,
16 Alabama; and

17 WHEREAS, Rev. Sykes was the longtime pastor of Second
18 Baptist Church in Maywood; he retired from pastoral duties in
19 2017, a role in which he served for nearly 60 years; prior to
20 his time as pastor, he served as deacon, church trustee,
21 superintendent of the Sunday School department, choir member,
22 and as the church's financial secretary for 12 years, among
23 many other roles; and

1 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Rev. Sykes, Second Baptist
2 Church grew into the town's most prominent church; Sundays
3 featured regular offerings for the Hayden Memorial Educational
4 Fund, which provided college scholarships to young
5 congregants, and Pam's Pennies, a fundraiser designed to
6 complement the scholarship fund; the church also established
7 the Maple Tree Child Learning Center, a daycare and nursery
8 housed in a building next to the church's current sanctuary;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The influence of Rev. Sykes was felt beyond the
11 walls of his church; Maywood named a portion of Washington
12 Boulevard after him, and in 2007 the Maywood Post Office was
13 named in his honor; in 2014, the Illinois House of
14 Representatives adopted a resolution commemorating his 52nd
15 pastoral anniversary; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
18 mourn the passing of Rev. Wallace Wyatt Sykes, and extend our
19 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
20 and loved him; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to the family of Rev. Sykes as an expression of our

HR1121

-3-

LRB100 22148 MST 40555 r

1 deepest sympathy.