



HR1352

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of the
4 Reverend James Bass of Chicago, who passed away on November 27,
5 2018; and

6 WHEREAS, Rev. Bass was born in Ruleville, Mississippi to
7 Frank and Hattie Bell Bass, the oldest of six children, on May
8 7, 1920; he began school at the age of six in a little church
9 house near Sunflower River Road; his favorite games were
10 marbles and throwing horseshoes; and

11 WHEREAS, Rev. Bass was called into the ministry at the age
12 of six; the children from neighboring farms gathered in one
13 house on Sunday evenings to play church; he would conduct the
14 service, rendering the sermon, the prayer, and the singing;
15 tithes and offering were pieces of broken glass; he ministered
16 at the funeral of anything that died and was repeatedly
17 referred to as "The Preacher Boy"; every Sunday, he attended
18 church with his parents in their only transportation, a mule
19 pulled wagon; he first attended Mt. Laton Baptist Church in
20 Sunflower County during the 1920s and 1930s; and

21 WHEREAS, At the age of 14, Rev. Bass became the custodian
22 at his church; from 1934 through 1936, he attended Ruleville

1 Jr. High School; in 1938, he preached his first sermon at Mt.
2 Laton Baptist Church entitled Preaching as the Fire Burns; he
3 graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1941; and

4 WHEREAS, On December 7, 1941, Rev. Bass was drafted into
5 the U.S. Army, where he served his country for three years
6 during World War II; he continued his ministry during this
7 time, speaking and teaching to fellow soldiers; he was promoted
8 to Corporal in 1944 and was sent with his division to the South
9 Pacific, India, and New Guinea, where his division was joined
10 by the 92nd infantry amidst fierce fighting; he became the
11 chaplain on the field and conducted worship services and
12 delivered the mail; he was discharged on June 7, 1945 and
13 received an array of medals; and

14 WHEREAS, Rev. Bass began his freshman year at Tugaloo
15 College in 1948, majoring in history; he attended the
16 Mississippi Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi in 1951 and became
17 pastor of the Mt. Israel Baptist Church in Clarksdale,
18 Mississippi, where he sponsored a broadcast for the senior
19 citizens, the sick, and shut-ins; and

20 WHEREAS, In December of 1955, Rev. Bass was invited to
21 Detroit to conduct a revival at Mt. Canaan Baptist Church; he
22 made a stop in Chicago to visit his brother, Harry, and his
23 sister, Mamie; he preached at the Greater Open Door Baptist

1 Church while there; and

2 WHEREAS, In August of 1956, a small mission was started and
3 rapidly grew in numbers; the Mount Olive Missionary Baptist
4 Church was organized in September of 1956; in February of 1957,
5 Rev. Bass returned to Chicago; he commuted between Chicago and
6 Mississippi, but soon permanently relocated to Chicago; he
7 served six years as a pastor in Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1967, Rev. Bass married Helyn Maxcine Julius;
9 the couple was blessed with their first child on May 3, 1968, a
10 son, Vincent, and on January 16, 1970, they were blessed with a
11 daughter, Vikkeda; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
14 mourn the passing of the Reverend James Bass and extend our
15 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
16 and loved him; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Rev. Bass as an expression of our
19 deepest sympathy.