



SR0741

LRB100 13519 MST 28133 r

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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 Henry W. Cowherd Jr. of Aurora, who passed away on July 12, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Henry Cowherd was born in Indianapolis, Indiana to Henry W. Sr. and Louise (Carter) Cowherd on May 19, 1924; he graduated from East Aurora High School in 1945; and

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WHEREAS, Henry Cowherd worked at the Burgess Norton Company for 34 years; and

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WHEREAS, Henry Cowherd made history when he became the first African American elected to the East Aurora School Board, where he served for 13 years; he was honored by the Illinois State Board of Education as one of "Those Who Excel" in recognition of his volunteerism and leadership; and

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WHEREAS, Henry Cowherd was recognized by the Aurora African American Heritage Advisory Board, where a scholarship was named in his honor; he served on the Aurora Human Relations Commission, the Aurora Area Crime Stoppers Board of Directors, and was a governing member of the Rush-Copley Board of Directors; and

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1 WHEREAS, Henry Cowherd was the past president of Boys
2 Baseball of Aurora; he was a member of the Sports Booster Club
3 for 25 years and was inducted into the Illinois Basketball
4 Coaches Association Hall of Fame; he was an active member of
5 Main Baptist Church, where he served as a trustee for 20 years;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, In 1991, the East Aurora Board of Education
8 unanimously voted to name the district's third middle school in
9 Henry Cowherd's honor, H.W. Cowherd Middle School; in 2015, he
10 and his wife were honored by the City of Aurora as grand
11 marshals for the Fourth of July parade; and

12 WHEREAS, Henry Cowherd was preceded in death by his parents
13 and his son Roderick, (Becky) Cowherd; and

14 WHEREAS, Henry Cowherd is survived by his wife of 70 years,
15 Phyllis "Carolyn" Cowherd; his daughter, Brenda (Rufus) Banks;
16 his son, James Michael (Ricardo) Cowherd; his grandchildren,
17 Shelley (Rodney) Johnson, Anthony Cowherd, Scott (Ashley)
18 Banks, and Stephen Cowherd; his great-grandchildren, Rima,
19 Lailani, Bradyn, Brycen, Kenya, and Kaia; his sister, Barbara
20 (Leon) Johnson; and his nephew, Ronell (Sherri) Johnson;
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
2 Henry W. Cowherd Jr., and extend our sincere condolences to his
3 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Henry Cowherd as an expression of
7 our deepest sympathy.