



SR1333

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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 Ronnie Taylor, affectionately known as "Pastor Ron," of Chicago, who passed away on January 20, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Pastor Ron was born in Chicago to Leroy and Ruth Brown-Taylor on July 31, 1957; the youngest boy of seven children, he dedicated his life to his faith at the age of 15, while attending Hope Deliverance Tabernacle under the direction of Pastor Jackie Jordan; it was here he also received his first ordination as a minister and met the love of his life, Johnnie Mae Jewett; he graduated from Farragut High School in 1975 and married Johnnie Mae in July 1977; and

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WHEREAS, After graduation, Pastor Ron immediately entered the workforce and had positions with the United States Post Office, Wells Manufacturing Co., Sears Roebuck and Co., and RR Donnelly and Sons Printing Co., where he remained for 25 years until he retired in 2003 to dedicate his life to full-time ministry; and

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WHEREAS, In 1991, Pastor Ron and Sister Taylor joined Truth Triumphant ministry under the leadership of Pastor Gary Brown; because his integrity and humility were noticed, Pastor Ron

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1 served on the Board of Trustees; he also served as an Elder, a
2 leader over the Men's Ministries, and a Sunday School teacher;
3 under Pastor Brown's leadership, he was ordained as a pastor
4 and served as the first Associate Pastor of the church; and

5 WHEREAS, In June of 1997, Pastor Ron invited 17 men and
6 women of faith to discuss developing a ministry to meet the
7 needs of hurting people; he accepted a call to pastor, and this
8 small group became the incorporators of the Disciples for
9 Christ Outreach Ministries (DFC); to enhance his knowledge, he
10 took several courses at Moody Bible Institute; the first
11 service was held in the basement of Pastor Ron's home, and
12 other services were held in the homes of other members; the
13 first public service was held in ministry rental space provided
14 by AFC World Outreach Ministry in August 1998; DFC remained
15 there for three years, until a permanent church building,
16 located in Oak Lawn, was purchased in 2000; and

17 WHEREAS, Pastor Ron knew that his calling to ministry was
18 beyond the "four walls" of the church; he knew that he was
19 called to minister to those who were hurting and broken by
20 unjust systems and structural racism, who would probably never
21 walk into a church building; for nine years, he served as the
22 Vice Chairman on the Board of Directors for Target Area
23 Development Corporation; an active board member, he served on
24 various committees and campaigns to eliminate barriers to

1 poverty in communities of color; he also pursued additional
2 educational opportunities; he obtained a certificate of
3 business management from Kellogg School of Management and
4 pursued his bachelor's degree in business from Capella
5 University; he later joined the staff of Target Area
6 Development and served as the Director of Coalitions and
7 Organizing for four years and the Director of Reentry Programs
8 for three years; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2005, Pastor Ron and close colleagues in the
10 social justice field founded the United Congress of Community
11 and Religious Organizations (UCCRO); he served as an Executive
12 Council Board Member for nine years and played a significant
13 role as a member of the UCCRO Advocacy Team; in 2013, after
14 vacating the position of Executive Director in order to pursue
15 public office, Josina Morita and the Executive Council
16 specifically identified Pastor Ron as a trusted leader who
17 could continue building the work of the coalition; and

18 WHEREAS, Pastor Ron was involved with several
19 organizations, including Communities United, Enlace Chicago,
20 the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN), the Kenwood
21 Oakland Community Center (KOCO), the Korean Resource Cultural
22 Center (KRCC), the Lugenia Burns Hope Center, and the West
23 Suburban Action Project (PASO); and

1 WHEREAS, Pastor Ron gained local and national recognition
2 for his work in the area of social justice; his hard work,
3 commitment, wisdom, and integrity were unmatched; and

4 WHEREAS, Pastor Ron was preceded in death by his parents;
5 and his brother, Charley Harris; and

6 WHEREAS, Pastor Ron is survived by his wife of 40 years,
7 Johnnie Mae Taylor; his daughter, Rebecca Taylor; his
8 granddaughter, Harmony Taylor-Warrensby; his siblings, Larryne
9 Ghoston (Vance), Phillystine Moore, Larry Taylor (Deborah),
10 Sharon Butler (David), Rochelle Taylor, Lethette Taylor,
11 Charlene Harris; his mother-in-law, Edith Richardson; and his
12 many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and
13 colleagues; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
16 Ronnie "Pastor Ron" Taylor and extend our sincere condolences
17 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Pastor Ron as an expression of our
21 deepest sympathy.