



HR0137

LRB101 11272 ALS 56619 r

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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 Dr. Mary  
4 Louise Lacey of Waukegan, who passed away on February 13, 2019;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, Dr. Lacey was born in Sherard, Mississippi to  
7 Elizabeth Campbell and Joseph "Joe" Climons Sr. on March 17,  
8 1938; she grew up with nine siblings, and her parents formed  
9 the Cradle Roll Singers; she recorded her first song, "If I Can  
10 Help Somebody" when she was 19 years old; she had many  
11 accomplishments in the musical arena as a world-renowned gospel  
12 and recording artist; she moved to Waukegan and traveled  
13 throughout the United States and Africa singing; at her annual  
14 concert at Shiloh Baptist Church in Waukegan, she had the honor  
15 of singing for First Lady Betty Ford; she also found success as  
16 a hat designer and beautician; and

17           WHEREAS, Dr. Lacey was an ordained Shepherdess,  
18 Evangelist, and Pastor; she received her Church of God in  
19 Christ ordination to minister the Gospel in 1989; she was  
20 admitted to The American Ministerial Association as an ordained  
21 minister in 1996; in 1997, she earned a doctorate from Trinity  
22 Seminary; after that, she organized Mary's Mission & Shelter  
23 Care; and

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Lacey assisted many Illinois Foster Program  
2 children through compassion and empowerment; in 2002, she began  
3 volunteering at the Lake County Jail, where she gave  
4 motivational talks to the inmates and would pray with those who  
5 chose to participate; and

6           WHEREAS, Most recently, Dr. Lacey was known for holding an  
7 annual Christmas parade from her mission to the Lake County  
8 jail, where she and volunteers would pass out hundreds of toys  
9 to the children of jail inmates, while also providing hams or  
10 turkeys to the families; in 2014, she called the parade "Bring  
11 Joy to the Jail," and she was joined by a coalition of church  
12 groups, elected officials, police chiefs, and citizens; and

13           WHEREAS, Among her significant achievements, Dr. Lacy  
14 received the 2008 Lake County Civil Rights Hall of Fame Award  
15 in recognition of service, dedication, and contributions to the  
16 Civil Rights movement; she was also awarded the Beyond the Call  
17 of Duty Award by AT&T, the Religious Worker's Guild's  
18 Humanitarian Award, the Patriot of the Year Award from the Help  
19 Hospitalized Veterans Association, the People's Most  
20 Influential African American Award, and the People's Voice  
21 Health and Human Services Award; and

22           WHEREAS, Dr. Lacey dedicated over 50 years of service as a

1 humanitarian and community leader, inspiring others through  
2 kindness, thoughtfulness, and dedication to her community;  
3 therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
5 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6 we mourn the passing of Dr. Mary Louise Lacey and extend our  
7 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew  
8 and loved her; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to the family of Dr. Lacey as an expression of our  
11 deepest sympathy.