



HR0161

LRB101 11432 ALS 57071 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Charles "Coach" Chambers of Chicago, who passed away on February 11, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Charles Chambers was born in St. Louis, Missouri to his mother, Autry L. Chambers and his grandmother, Frankie P. Williams; he moved to his permanent hometown of Chicago when he was nine; as the oldest of nine children, he worked at a local grocery store and ran newspaper routes to help his mother with expenses; in 1964, he graduated from DuSable High School, where he played football and basketball; he continued his love for both sports at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, where he received an athletic scholarship and was the only African American on the football team; in 1968, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education; and

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WHEREAS, Charles Chambers returned to Chicago and accepted a position as a physical education teacher at Hearst Elementary; there, he began his coaching career with 7th and 8th grade boys basketball; in 1972, he became a varsity football coach and a freshman-sophomore basketball coach at Tilden High School; he later became a varsity football coach at Calumet High School, where he also coached the girls basketball

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1 team at Lane Tech and won back-to-back city titles in 1985 and
2 1986; he received his first head coaching opportunity at
3 Chicago Vocational High School in 1989, where he became the
4 coach with the most state playoff wins and the second most
5 overall wins in the school's history, revolutionizing Chicago
6 Public League football; and

7 WHEREAS, After retiring from Chicago Vocational High
8 School, Charles Chambers spent his days assisting the next
9 generation of head coaches; most recently, he served as the
10 assistant coach at Harlan Community Academy, where his son
11 Cassius is the head coach; and

12 WHEREAS, Charles Chambers is survived by his life partner
13 and friend, Corrina (Cocoa); his children, Taji, Chucky,
14 Cassius, Chez, and Jeremiah; his grandchildren, Alaisha,
15 Chucky Jr., Jalen, LaChez, Jyishon, Layden, Canaan, and Cassius
16 "CJ"; his siblings, Ray, Valerie, Halycon, Ledell, the late
17 Ardell, Demetric, Wanda, and Constance; and his many nieces,
18 nephews, cousins, and friends, including the faculty, staff,
19 and student body at Chicago Vocational High School; therefore,
20 be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
22 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
23 we mourn the passing of Charles "Coach" Chambers and extend our

1 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
2 and loved him; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the family of Charles Chambers as an expression of
5 our deepest sympathy.