



HR0597

LRB101 15241 MST 64412 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 Joannetta
4 Marilyn "Joan" Copeland, who passed away on October 24, 2019;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Joan Copeland was born to Irma and Earl Davis on
7 November 4, 1950; she attended Greater Exodus Missionary
8 Baptist Church; she graduated from Charles Sumner Elementary
9 School in 1965 and from John Marshall High School in 1969; she
10 married Martin "Marty" Copeland on February 20, 1970; and

11 WHEREAS, Joan Copeland had a passion and zeal for learning
12 and education, especially in the area of early child
13 development; she earned an applied science degree in child
14 development from Malcolm X College in 1975, a Bachelor of Arts
15 in 1987, and a Masters of Arts from Northeastern Illinois
16 University in 1990; she also completed additional graduate
17 courses at several other universities, including the
18 University of Iowa, Northern Illinois University, National
19 Louis University, and Chicago State University; and

20 WHEREAS, Joan Copeland was a teacher and administrator at
21 Bethel Christian School; at Malcolm X College, she served as
22 chairperson of the Child Development Department from 2001 to

1 2007; and

2 WHEREAS, Joan Copeland received numerous awards and
3 recognitions, including the Golden Apple Teacher Award (1981),
4 Distinguished Professor (Malcolm X College 2009), and the Kathy
5 Osterman Award (City of Chicago 2010); she was a grant
6 proofreader and writer and authored two children's books,
7 Homeys with a Future (1980) and Carrie's Journal (1982); in
8 1982, she was featured on Someone You Should Know with former
9 TV anchor Harry Porterfield of WLS News; in 1993, she was a
10 featured writer in the News and Views section of Parenting
11 Magazine; and

12 WHEREAS, Joan Copeland entered the ministry in 2018; she
13 served as Director of The Intergenerational Connection
14 Ministry; and

15 WHEREAS, Joan Copeland was a member of Bethel Lutheran
16 Church, where she served as an usher and as a Sunday school
17 teacher; when it came to fashion, she was in a class all by
18 herself; she always wore outfits coordinated from head to toe,
19 and her extensive African wardrobe was inspirational and often
20 radiant; and

21 WHEREAS, Joan Copeland is survived by her husband, Martin
22 "Marty"; her father, Earl Davis; her sons, Earl Lamont (Tanya),

1 Kevin Jabbar (Phyllis), and Maurice Ali; her siblings, Joyce
2 White, Cynthia Osafo, Oless James, Delores James, Marilyn
3 Straughter, Donnie James, and Michael James; her aunts, Alice
4 Handy, Ethel Mae Cummings, Evelyn Rutledge, and Gloria Watkins;
5 her sister-in-law, Paulette Watkins; her brother-in-law,
6 Michael Copeland; her grandchildren, Earl Jr., Denzel,
7 Diamond, Kevonna Jonae', and Rodger; her great-granddaughter,
8 Aubree; her goddaughter, Chawn; numerous nieces, nephews, and
9 cousins; her very special and dear friend, Edna Nixon; and
10 other relatives, friends, and her Bethel Lutheran Church
11 family; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we mourn the passing of Joannetta Marilyn "Joan" Copeland and
15 extend our sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all
16 who knew and loved her; and be it further

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