



SR0873

LRB101 16106 MST 65469 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 Richard Gordon Hatcher, who passed away on December 13, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Richard Hatcher was born in Michigan City, Indiana on July 10, 1933; he graduated from Indiana University and earned a law degree from Valparaiso University; he moved to Gary, Indiana after becoming a deputy prosecutor and married Ruthellyn in 1976; and

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WHEREAS, Richard Hatcher was elected mayor of Gary, Indiana in 1967, becoming one of the first black mayors of a major U.S. city; he became the political face of Gary and a political force for blacks after his ground-breaking election; he organized the 1972 National Black Political Convention in Gary and served as chairman of Jesse Jackson's Democratic presidential campaign in 1984 and vice chairman four years later; and

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WHEREAS, During his 20 years in office, Richard Hatcher secured hundreds of millions of dollars in federal money for Gary, Indiana, some of which was used to build low-cost housing and the first public housing units in the city in nearly two decades; he also received federal funds for jobs training,

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1 repaved deteriorating streets, and put numerous inner-city
2 neighborhoods on regular garbage collection for the first time;
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4 WHEREAS, Prior to becoming mayor of Gary, Indiana, Richard
5 Hatcher was a member of its city council, where he helped pass
6 an open housing law to end restrictive property covenants that
7 forced blacks to live primarily in Gary's midtown section; and

8 WHEREAS, Richard Hatcher and his wife have three daughters,
9 Ragen, Rachelle, and Renee; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
12 Richard Gordon Hatcher and extend our sincere condolences to
13 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of Richard Hatcher as an expression of
17 our deepest sympathy.