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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 Elgie R. Sims Sr., who passed away on March 7, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Elgie Sims Sr. was born to Carvin and Lizzie (Harris) Sims on August 2, 1942; he attended Washington High School, where he was known as one of the fastest men in Arkansas and earned the nickname Smoke; and

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WHEREAS, Elgie Sims Sr. moved his family to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and then Chicago; he graduated from Chicago Automatic Transmission School, Greer Technical School, Sun Electric Technical School, and the Chicago School of Business; during this time, he began working at Mel's Manufacturing, where he became a union steward; he left to work at the Schwinn Bicycle Company and subsequently opened his first business, the Sims/Jackson Transmission Shop, while attending night school; and

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WHEREAS, After completing business school in 1971, Elgie Sims Sr. opened Pete and Sims Shell Station; soon after, he opened Sims Auto Parts in Chicago and New Way Cleaners in El Dorado, Arkansas; in 1978, he expanded his business interests in Chicago to include three warehouses and auto parts stores;

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1 one of his greatest business accomplishments came when he  
2 opened Sims Chrysler-Plymouth-Dodge in Fordyce, Arkansas,  
3 making him the first African American in Arkansas to own a new  
4 car dealership; he also founded Sims Wrecker Service and  
5 Elgie's Used Cars; and

6 WHEREAS, Elgie Sims Sr. believed in giving back to his  
7 community and was honored when he was appointed to serve on the  
8 Arkansas Board of Towing and Recovery, where he served until  
9 2016; he received numerous awards and recognitions, including  
10 one from the Nile and Marzell Smith Museum of African American  
11 History; and

12 WHEREAS, Elgie Sims Sr. was most proud of his greatest  
13 legacy, his family; he took pride in being the patriarch of his  
14 family, dispensing wisdom to his children, grandchildren,  
15 nephews, family, and friends; he was known for his many  
16 colorful sayings and the life lessons and challenges he gave  
17 himself and those around him; and

18 WHEREAS, Elgie Sims Sr. was preceded in death by his  
19 parents; his brother, Calvin; and special family members,  
20 Lorene Pettye Sims and Will Ella Gaston; and

21 WHEREAS, Elgie Sims Sr. is survived by his wife, Penny; his  
22 sons, Pastor Paul (Carol) Sims, Illinois State Senator Elgie

1 (Shivonne) Sims Jr., Terrence (Rashonda) Sims, Libue Steven  
2 Sims, Renelius (Shekasha) Sims, Sean Lea-Sims, and Josh Sims;  
3 his daughters, Teresa Sims, Evangelist Elgie Rena (Fletcher)  
4 Sims-Neely, Vicky (Mike) Brown, Krystal (Rodney) Norman, and  
5 Rashawnda (Albert) Hayes; his brother, Troy (Barbara) Sims; his  
6 sisters, Eva Lois (Roy) Eutsey and Barbara Johnson; 29  
7 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a host of nieces and  
8 nephews, Robert, Marcus, Victor, and Marcus, and many friends;  
9 and special family members, Irma Sims and Barbara Howell;  
10 therefore, be it

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

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to the family of Elgie Sims Sr. as an expression of  
18 our deepest sympathy.