



HR0152

LRB102 17692 LAW 23625 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 Rev.
4 Thomas G. Henry Sr., who passed away on March 9, 2021; and

5 WHEREAS, Rev. Thomas Henry Sr. was born in West Point,
6 Mississippi to Daniel W. and Sally L. Henry on September 11,
7 1936; he attended West Point schools; after relocating to
8 Chicago, he attended Crane High School, where he played
9 baseball and football; he married Lucille Archibald, and they
10 had five children; he graduated from Wells Evening School; he
11 earned his Associate in Social Science from Olive Harvey
12 College; he attended McKinley Theological Seminary, Bishop
13 College Institute, and Roosevelt University; and

14 WHEREAS, Rev. Thomas Henry Sr. committed to his faith
15 around the age of 14; he was called to the ministry in 1959; he
16 preached his trial sermon at Friendship Baptist Church under
17 the tutelage of the late Pastor Sheldon Hall; he was appointed
18 junior church pastor of the Mozart/First Baptist
19 Congregational Church in 1967, where he served and ministered
20 to children for several years; he later became the assistant
21 pastor under the late Rev. Dr. Arthur Griffin; he became the
22 founding pastor of Austin Baptist United Church of Christ in
23 1973, where he served as a dedicated pastor for 47 years until

1 the time of his passing; he was a great leader to his flock,
2 and he mentored and helped many people in the community; he had
3 a vast knowledge of scripture and was known as a bible teaching
4 preacher; and

5 WHEREAS, Rev. Thomas Henry Sr. was a firm believer in
6 higher learning; during his 50 years of service, he started
7 many programs to enhance the lives of young people in the
8 Austin community; he founded the Austin Christian School and
9 served as executive director of the Austin Baptist UCC Day
10 Care & Head Start Program; he provided summer jobs, day camp,
11 and food pantries; he also served as a truant officer for
12 Chicago Public Schools, as director of the youth program for
13 the Chicago Archdiocese, and as a prison chaplain for the Cook
14 County Sheriff's Department; and

15 WHEREAS, Rev. Thomas Henry Sr. was known for his sense of
16 humor and his smile that always started in his eyes; he had a
17 beautiful tenor voice, loved music and singing, and had been a
18 member of the Thompson Community Singers, where he met his
19 wife; he was an avid reader; he enjoyed watching the news,
20 traveling, and sports, especially baseball; he will be
21 remembered as a kind, generous man who dedicated his life to
22 serving others; and

23 WHEREAS, Rev. Thomas Henry Sr. was preceded in death by

1 his parents; his sisters, Willie McLaurin and Rosa Lavine; and
2 his brothers, Charles Henry, Booker T. Henry, and John Henry;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Rev. Thomas Henry Sr. is survived by his brother,
5 Daniel Henry (Lois); his sisters, Mary Sykes and Madelyn
6 Williams; his sister-in-law, Bobbi Henry; his children, Thomas
7 G. Henry Jr., Patrice McClellan, LaShaun Crump (Todd), Michael
8 Henry (Veranda), Bridget Henry, and Jelisa Matthews; his
9 grandchildren, Demetrius Haywood, Byron Turner (Aiesha), Omari
10 McClellan (Charlotte), Shani Douglas (Danyale), Zachary Henry,
11 Blake Henry (Celeste), Zoie Henry, Drew Henry, and Jaliah
12 Matthews; 14 great-grandchildren; other children he considered
13 and raised as his own; his best friend, Ernesto Scott and his
14 extended family; the members of Austin Baptist United Church
15 of Christ; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and
16 friends; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we mourn the passing of Rev. Thomas G. Henry Sr. and extend our
20 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
21 and loved him; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
23 presented to the family of Rev. Thomas Henry Sr. as an

1 expression of our deepest sympathy.