



HR0277

LRB102 18365 ECR 26193 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 Edward
4 L. "Buzz" Palmer of Chicago, who passed away on April 11, 2021;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Edward Palmer was born in Englewood and graduated
7 from Lindblom High School; after high school, he served in the
8 Air Force where he learned to speak German, and his duties
9 included monitoring radio communications in East Germany and
10 behind the Iron Curtain; and

11 WHEREAS, Edward Palmer worked in law enforcement and
12 headed Chicago's Sister Cities program during Mayor Harold
13 Washington's administration; and

14 WHEREAS, Edward Palmer helped found Chicago's
15 Afro-American Patrolmen's League (AAPL) in 1968 after the
16 assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.; in response
17 to the unrest after King's assassination, Mayor Richard J.
18 Daley issued an order to shoot to kill arsonists, which was a
19 declaration praised by the Fraternal Order of Police; the AAPL
20 opposed the order and were given punitive assignments in
21 response; and

1 WHEREAS, The stories of the founding members of the AAPL
2 helped inspire what has been dubbed TV's first soul soap opera
3 "Bird of the Iron Feather"; premiering on WTTW in 1970, it
4 featured storylines about poverty, predatory credit practices,
5 street gangs, and pressures Black officers faced navigating a
6 White-dominated department amid growing calls for Black
7 liberation; and

8 WHEREAS, Along with his wife, former State Senator Alice
9 Palmer, he co-founded the Black Press Institute and also
10 helped start an international news digest, the Black Press
11 Review; he helped organize gatherings for Black journalists to
12 meet newsmakers, including United Nations Secretary-General
13 Kofi Annan; he helped revive the Black United Fund, a
14 not-for-profit organization, and headed COMPRAND, a community
15 health agency that worked to boost Black enrollment in medical
16 schools; he also arranged international internships for
17 Chicago undergraduates; and

18 WHEREAS, Edward Palmer had a raucous laugh that people
19 would recognize when he and his wife ate breakfast at a
20 favorite haunt, Chef Sara's Cafe in South Shore; he will be
21 especially remembered as a community activist who tried to
22 connect people around the world who saw the Black struggle in
23 America as an impetus for change; and

1 WHEREAS, Edward Palmer is survived by his wife, Alice; his
2 daughters, Lisa Russell and Zella Palmer; his sisters, Ruth
3 Long and Caroline Hudson; and his seven grandchildren;
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we mourn the passing of Edward L. "Buzz" Palmer and extend our
8 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
9 and loved him; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Edward Palmer as an expression of
12 our deepest sympathy.