



HR0423

LRB102 19599 ECR 28367 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to recognize Timuel "Tim" D. Black Jr. for his accomplishments and especially his local and national work in the civil rights movement; and

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WHEREAS, Timuel Black was born in Birmingham, Alabama on December 7, 1918; his family became part of the first Great Migration of African Americans from the Deep South and settled in Chicago in 1919; during his early school years at Edmund Burke Elementary School and DuSable High School, he worked as a paper boy for the Chicago Defender; as a teen during the Great Depression, he worked as a delivery boy for a local grocery store, where he had his first experience as an organizer; and

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WHEREAS, In the early thirties, Timuel Black helped organize the "Don't Spend Your Money Where You Can't Work" campaign, which led to the formation of the Negro Retail Clerks Union; in the 1940s, he was an active organizer of the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE), which worked to desegregate Chicago department stores and public accommodations; and

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WHEREAS, Timuel Black served in the U.S. Army during World

1 War II and was awarded four battle stars and a Croix de Guerre,
2 the highest military honor accorded by France to non-citizens;
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4 WHEREAS, After the war, Timuel Black received a bachelor's
5 degree from Roosevelt University and later pursued a master's
6 degree from the University of Chicago; in 1955, after seeing
7 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on television, he was motivated to
8 abandon his doctoral studies at the University of Chicago to
9 become an active participant in the civil rights movement; and

10 WHEREAS, Immersing himself in civil rights work, Timuel
11 Black served as the Chicago chair of the historic 1963 March on
12 Washington; as a pioneer in the independent Black political
13 movement, he was one of the first African Americans in Chicago
14 to challenge the "Regular Democratic Organization" and coined
15 the phrase "Plantation Politics"; he ran for public office
16 several times and was a leader in the massive voter
17 registration campaign that resulted in the election of former
18 Chicago Mayor Harold Washington; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2000, Timuel Black served as the lead
20 plaintiff in Black v. McGuffage, a lawsuit that charged the
21 Illinois voting system with systemic discrimination against
22 minorities; and

1 WHEREAS, In January of 2012, the Timuel D. Black Jr.
2 Archive was officially inaugurated and opened to researchers;
3 the massive archive of Timuel Black documents, letters, and
4 memorabilia is housed in the Vivian Harsh Collection at the
5 Carter G. Woodson Regional Library in Chicago; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2008, Timuel Black received an honorary
7 doctoral degree from his alma mater, Roosevelt University; in
8 2010 and again in 2015, he traveled to the Netherlands and The
9 Hague to be honored and lecture at the annual Dr. Martin Luther
10 King Day Dinner of the United States Embassy; in June of 2012,
11 half a century after he withdrew from the University of
12 Chicago in order to join Dr. King, he was awarded the 2012
13 Benton Medal for Distinguished Public Service from the
14 University of Chicago and was the first person of color to
15 receive this award; in 2013, he was honored by the City of
16 Chicago with the inaugural Chicago Champion of Freedom medal
17 in recognition of his work in the civil rights movement both
18 locally and nationally; on December 9, 2018, he was awarded
19 the French Legion of Honor by the French Consul General of
20 Chicago during the gala celebration of his 100th birthday; and

21 WHEREAS, Two volumes of Timuel Black's three-volume work,
22 Bridges of Memory: Chicago's First Wave of Great Migration,
23 have been published, and the third volume is in production;
24 these books chronicle the history of Black Chicago from the

1 1920s to the present; his memoir, Sacred Ground, which focuses
2 heavily on his lifelong home of the Chicago's South Side, was
3 published in December of 2019 by Northwestern University
4 Press; 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 recognize the lifelong accomplishments of Timuel "Tim" D.
8 Black Jr., respected educator, political activist, community
9 leader, oral historian, philanthropist, and philosopher; and
10 be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to Timuel Black as a symbol of our esteem and
13 respect.