



HR0496

LRB102 20468 ECR 29330 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 Reverend
4 Alphonso Lyons Jr. of Peoria, who passed away on September 21,
5 2021; and

6 WHEREAS, Reverend Alphonso Lyons was born in Peoria to
7 Alphonso Sr. and Ellora (Derrick) Lyons on March 22, 1949; he
8 graduated from Manual High School in 1967 and from Bradley
9 University in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and
10 Religious Studies; he later received a master's degree in
11 Education and Administration from Bradley; he was ordained in
12 1974; he married Cheryl G. Green in 1975, and they had two
13 children together; he later married Charlene Grant Coates, and
14 they raised five children together; and

15 WHEREAS, Reverend Alphonso Lyons served as an assistant
16 pastor under the guidance of Dr. Wendall R. Phillips at Mount
17 Zion Baptist Church; in May of 1974, he began serving as
18 interim pastor; in October of 1974, the church selected him as
19 the head pastor, where he has been known for his gentleness and
20 his dynamic teaching style; he also worked as a substitute
21 teacher for Peoria Public Schools for many years, teaching
22 several subjects including French; and

1 WHEREAS, Reverend Alphonso Lyons donated his time and
2 talents to numerous organizations, including serving as
3 chairman of the Peoria Christian Leadership Council, as
4 moderator of the Central District Congress, as past president
5 of the Central District Association, as chairman of the board
6 of the Peoria Christian Leadership Council, as a member of the
7 Peoria Baptist Ministerial Alliance, as a member of the Peoria
8 Ministerial Economic Development organization, as a member of
9 the Committee to Establish a Peoria Charter School, as a
10 member of the Peoria Lion's Club, as a board member of the
11 Manual High School Advisory Board, as past president of the
12 Central District Congress, as a past corresponding secretary
13 for the Baptist General State Convention of Illinois
14 (2002-2008), as a past instructor for the Central District
15 Congress, as a past instructor for the Baptist General State
16 Convention of Illinois (1976-1979), and as a past secretary
17 for the PAMA (Peoria Area Ministerial Association); he also
18 was a former contributing writer to the religious column in
19 the Peoria Journal Star; and

20 WHEREAS, Always looking for ways to make his church and
21 the community more financially grounded, Reverend Alphonso
22 Lyons founded Mount Zions' Effort to Equip the Community
23 (METEC), a community development corporation that provides
24 resources to help families and individuals with housing and
25 employment; he served on METEC's board since its inception in

1 2001; and

2 WHEREAS, Reverend Alphonso Lyons was preceded in death by
3 his father and four grandchildren, Jeremiah Hayes, Deshaun
4 Hayes, Jazmine "BJ" Ivy, and Brandon Grant; and

5 WHEREAS, Reverend Alphonso Lyons is survived by his loving
6 and devoted wife, Charlene Lyons; his children, Devon Lyons,
7 Frank Coates, Willie Coates, Crystal Grant, and Danielle
8 Lyons; his loving mother, Ellora Lyons; his siblings, Michael
9 Lyons, Don (Annie) Lyons, Curtis Lyons, Charla (Rev. James)
10 Fleming, Cheryll (Keith) Boswell, and Ruthi Lyons; his 20
11 grandchildren; his host of great-grandchildren; his host of
12 nieces and nephews; and his other relatives, friends and the
13 Mount Zion Baptist Church family; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we mourn the passing of Reverend Alphonso Lyons Jr. and extend
17 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who
18 knew and loved him; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Reverend Alphonso Lyons as an
21 expression of our deepest sympathy.