



HR0838

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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 Anthony
4 James Bradford; and

5 WHEREAS, Anthony Bradford was born to Dorothy Joiner and
6 Thomas Fields on November 2, 1964; he was raised in Chicago
7 along with his four siblings by his mother Dorothy and Robert
8 "Pops" Joiner; he attended First New Mt. Olive Baptist Church,
9 where he previously served as an usher; he attended Gillespie
10 Elementary School and Julian High School; after graduation, he
11 briefly attended Grambling State University and then returned
12 home, where he became employed in the Northwestern University
13 Mail Services department; he was affectionately known as "Amp"
14 or "AJ"; and

15 WHEREAS, Anthony Bradford dreamed of becoming a lawyer and
16 also of joining the United States Peace Corps; after nearly
17 eight years, he resigned from his position at Northwestern
18 University and enrolled in Western Illinois University, where
19 he was a member of the Black Student Association, the
20 Political Science Club, and the Pre Law Club; he served as an
21 aide to then-Mayor Tom Carperand and assisted with his
22 political campaigns; he also volunteered in the community and
23 within other campus organizations; he made history when he

1 became the first African American student to serve as student
2 representative on the Western Illinois University Board of
3 Trustees; he received his bachelor's degree in May 1995; and

4 WHEREAS, Anthony Bradford returned to Chicago and, along
5 with nine other students from across the United States, was
6 selected to participate in the prestigious Pre-Law Summer
7 Institute at John Marshall Law School; one of his most
8 cherished memories was having an opportunity to argue through
9 mock trial the groundbreaking civil rights case Dred Scott v.
10 Sanford in the presence of a room filled with judges, lawyers,
11 law professors, other members of the legal community, and his
12 fellow program participants; and

13 WHEREAS, Anthony Bradford was sworn in as a United States
14 Peace Corps volunteer in the fall of 1996; during his years of
15 service, he served as an agro business consultant and liaison,
16 ESL teacher, and a grant writer in Grand Goave, Haiti; he was
17 instrumental in securing funding for many local water and
18 agricultural projects; he loved Haiti and embraced many
19 aspects of Haitian culture; an incident in which he ran his
20 bike into a six year old orphaned boy, Chelot, would change the
21 trajectory of both of their lives and hearts; as his Peace
22 Corps end of service date approached, he focused on legally
23 adopting Chelot and bringing him back to the United States; in
24 2001, he married Ge'ylah Jones Allen and gained two sons and a

1 daughter, Aaron Oschea, Johnathan Lee, and Shauntia Caprice;
2 in 2006, Chelot joined his family in Chicago; and

3 WHEREAS, Anthony Bradford held many jobs in social service
4 management, but his passion was education; he taught for over
5 20 years within the Chicago, Baltimore, and Florida public
6 school systems; he was an exceptionally gifted historian and
7 political scientist; his specialty was foreign policy and
8 civil rights; he was an avid reader and enjoyed watching
9 political news; and

10 WHEREAS, Anthony Bradford served as president of the 9600
11 Princeton Block Club for several years; he pioneered the
12 city's prestigious Garden of Excellence Award; he received
13 numerous acknowledgments for his unending service, including
14 the Roseland YMCA Community Service and Volunteer Award and
15 the Western Illinois University Black Student Union Volunteer
16 of the Year; and

17 WHEREAS, Anthony Bradford loved his family; as a first
18 generation college attendee and graduate, he was a
19 trailblazer; he influenced and assisted his siblings and many
20 of his cousins, nieces, and nephews with the college
21 enrollment process; he also had a strong bond with his
22 grandmothers; his cousins were like siblings, and his friends
23 were like cousins; he will always be remembered for his

1 willingness to help anyone and everyone; and

2 WHEREAS, Posthumously, Anthony Bradford's family will
3 finalize the publication of his memoir, From the Hood to
4 Haiti, a companion project to the many high school and
5 collegiate speaking appearances that bore the same title; his
6 long-standing message within the project was that as an inner
7 city, non-Ivy League college graduate, despite the obstacles
8 and challenges he faced, he was able to endure and complete the
9 rigorous Peace Corps application process and live out one of
10 his biggest dreams; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
12 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we mourn the passing of Anthony James Bradford and extend our
14 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
15 and loved him; and be it further

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