



HR0842

LRB102 27367 ECR 39156 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 Billie
4 Jean Paige of Chicago, who passed away on April 10, 2022; and

5 WHEREAS, Billie Paige was born to Enos and Ora Bond in
6 Chicago on June 26, 1937; she received her formal education at
7 an all-girls boarding school in Wisconsin, where she was an
8 exceptional student, a stand-out basketball player, and a
9 participant in musicals and stage plays; after high school,
10 she attended Loyola University, the University of Chicago, and
11 Roosevelt University; she graduated college at age 19, having
12 developed an interest in politics and government; in addition
13 to excelling as a student, she was professionally trained as a
14 vocalist and pianist; she married George Howard Paige on
15 February 16, 1957; and

16 WHEREAS, Billie Paige first worked as a secretary at the
17 University of Chicago's graduate school; she then worked for
18 Head Start and joined the Kuumba Workshop in the 1970s; in
19 1973, she was recruited into Illinois state government and
20 worked as a Coordinator of Paraprofessional Training; in 1975,
21 she became the Commissioner of the Illinois Department of
22 Labor's Bureau of Employment Security's Division of
23 Unemployment Insurance; she was the first African American

1 woman to head an unemployment program in the United States; in
2 late 1975, she became the Assistant Director of the Illinois
3 Department of Registration and Education and was the
4 second-ranking statutory official for the department; in 1980,
5 she earned the position of Director of Government Affairs for
6 the Illinois Hospital Association; in 1983, she became a
7 legislative consultant with Shea, Rogal and Associates and
8 made history as the first full-time African American female
9 lobbyist in Illinois; in 1992, she was named President of
10 Shea, Paige, and Rogal, Incorporated and became a partner in
11 the firm; in 1984, she served as President and Chief Executive
12 Officer of Continental Testing Services, Incorporated; and

13 WHEREAS, Billie Paige became a member of Saint Ailbe
14 Catholic Church (Saint Katharine Drexel Parish) in Chicago in
15 the 1960s; she served as the vocalist and pianist at the
16 parish's Saturday evening mass; she was ultimately named the
17 Assistant to the Director of Music and sang in the choir at all
18 three of the weekend masses in addition to the holiday masses;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Billie Paige was a founding member of the
21 Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership (IWIL) Training
22 Academy; and

23 WHEREAS, Billie Paige was a lifelong lover of owls and

1 collected many pieces of jewelry, paintings, and figurines
2 bearing owl images; she enjoyed music and collected music
3 boxes and visual art pieces depicting musical notes; she was
4 also an ardent fan of the Star Wars movies and was known for
5 her delicious greens and chili recipe and for her annual pool
6 party; included in her collectibles were items that featured
7 images of West Highland White Terriers, of which she had six
8 during her lifetime; and

9 WHEREAS, Billie Paige was preceded in death by her son,
10 Stephen; and

11 WHEREAS, Billie Paige is survived by her loving husband,
12 George; her son, Gary (Apryl); her daughter-in-law, Jacinta;
13 her granddaughter, Daria; and a host of beloved relatives and
14 cherished friends; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we mourn the passing of Billie Jean Paige and extend our
18 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew
19 and loved her; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Billie Paige as an expression of our
22 deepest sympathy.