



HR0947

LRB102 29052 LAW 40959 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 Gloria  
4 "Mama Gloria" Allen of Chicago, who passed away on June 13,  
5 2022; and

6           WHEREAS, Gloria Allen was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky  
7 on October 6, 1945; she was the child of Alma and grandchild of  
8 Mildred; she grew up in the Bronzeville neighborhood amid the  
9 legendary drag balls on Chicago's South Side; she attended  
10 Englewood High School, where she experienced and overcame  
11 traumatic violence; she transitioned with the love and support  
12 of her mother and grandmother well before the Stonewall Riots  
13 of 1969; and

14           WHEREAS, Gloria Allen became a licensed practical nurse  
15 (LPN), and she worked at the University of Chicago Hospital  
16 and in private homes as a nurse's aide; and

17           WHEREAS, In her later years, Gloria Allen established a  
18 charm school for young transgender people at Chicago's Center  
19 on Halsted, where she offered lessons on love, makeup, and  
20 manners and became affectionately known as "Mama Gloria" or  
21 simply "Mama" to her pupils; her work inspired the critically  
22 acclaimed play Charm, written by Philip Dawkins, which

1 premiered at Steppenwolf Garage Theater in Chicago in 2015  
2 before traveling to Minneapolis, Washington, D.C., Los  
3 Angeles, and New York; and

4 WHEREAS, Gloria Allen famously appeared on the cover of  
5 Jess T. Dugan and Vanessa Fabbre's book *To Survive on This*  
6 *Shore*, featuring photographs of and interviews with trans and  
7 non-binary elders; she became the subject of the 2020  
8 acclaimed documentary feature *Mama Gloria*, directed by Luchina  
9 Fisher, which was nominated for a 2022 GLAAD Media Award;  
10 through the documentary, she rose to national prominence,  
11 gaining new audiences and fame; her life and work were  
12 featured in the *Chicago Tribune*, *People* magazine, the 19th  
13 News, the BBC, *NowThisNews*, the *Washington Post*, and other  
14 publications; and

15 WHEREAS, Gloria Allen received a number of accolades for  
16 her activism, including the Living Legend Award by Janet Mock  
17 and Precious Brady-Davis at the 2014 Trans 100 Awards and  
18 SAGE's Carmen Vázquez Advocacy Award for Excellence in  
19 Leadership on Aging Issues at the National LGBTQ Task Force's  
20 annual Creating Change Conference in 2021; and

21 WHEREAS, Gloria Allen's life and the impact she had on the  
22 LGBTQ community were highlighted by President Joe Biden at the  
23 signing of an executive order to advance equality for LGBTQI+

1 individuals at the White House two days after her death on June  
2 15, 2022; and

3 WHEREAS, Gloria Allen lived her life as an out and proud  
4 Black transgender woman; she will be remembered as a  
5 trailblazer, an activist, an icon, and a beloved elder of her  
6 community; and

7 WHEREAS, Gloria Allen is survived by her brothers,  
8 Herbert, Albert, Michael, and Phillip, and her sister, Sharon  
9 Smith; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
11 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
12 we mourn the passing of Gloria "Mama Gloria" Allen and extend  
13 our sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who  
14 knew and loved her; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to the family of Gloria Allen as an expression of our  
17 deepest sympathy.