



SR0143

LRB102 12648 ECR 17987 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Archbishop Wilton Daniel Gregory was born in Chicago in 1947; he attended St. Carthage Grammar School, Quigley Preparatory Seminary South, Niles College of Loyola University, and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary; and

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WHEREAS, Archbishop Wilton Gregory was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1973 and later returned to Illinois after earning a doctorate in sacred liturgy in Rome; and

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WHEREAS, Archbishop Wilton Gregory served as an associate pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Glenview, as a faculty member of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, and as an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Archbishop Wilton Gregory served as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Belleville for 11 years; and

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WHEREAS, From 2001 to 2004, Archbishop Wilton Gregory served as the first African American president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; he also implemented the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People; and

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WHEREAS, In 2006, Archbishop Wilton Gregory was inducted

1 into the Martin Luther King Board of Preachers at Morehouse  
2 College in Atlanta; and

3 WHEREAS, From 2005 to 2019, Archbishop Wilton Gregory  
4 served as the archbishop of Atlanta and led that archdiocese  
5 through a period of growth; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2019, Archbishop Wilton Gregory was appointed  
7 the seventh archbishop of Washington, D.C. where he created an  
8 anti-racism initiative to combat racial injustice; and

9 WHEREAS, Archbishop Wilton Gregory has worked to establish  
10 truth as the guiding principle for his work as well as that of  
11 his congregations and communities; and

12 WHEREAS, On October 25, 2020, Pope Francis announced that  
13 Archbishop Wilton Gregory would be raised to the position of  
14 cardinal at a consistory on November 28, 2020; and

15 WHEREAS, Archbishop Gregory is the first African American  
16 cardinal in the history of the Roman Catholic Church;  
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare November  
20 28, 2021 Archbishop Wilton Gregory Day in recognition of his

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1 achievements.