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LRB102 17694 LAW 23640 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Rev. Thomas G. Henry Sr., who passed away on March 9, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Thomas Henry Sr. was born in West Point, Mississippi to Daniel W. and Sally L. Henry on September 11, 1936; he attended West Point schools; after relocating to Chicago, he attended Crane High School, where he played baseball and football; he married Lucille Archibald, and they had five children; he graduated from Wells Evening School; he earned his Associate in Social Science from Olive Harvey College; he attended McKinley Theological Seminary, Bishop College Institute, and Roosevelt University; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Thomas Henry Sr. committed to his faith around the age of 14; he was called to the ministry in 1959; he preached his trial sermon at Friendship Baptist Church under the tutelage of the late Pastor Sheldon Hall; he was appointed junior church pastor of the Mozart/First Baptist Congregational Church in 1967, where he served and ministered to children for several years; he later became the assistant pastor under the late Rev. Dr. Arthur Griffin; he became the founding pastor of Austin Baptist United Church of Christ in 1973, where he served as a dedicated pastor for 47 years until

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1 the time of his passing; he was a great leader to his flock,
2 and he mentored and helped many people in the community; he had
3 a vast knowledge of scripture and was known as a bible teaching
4 preacher; and

5 WHEREAS, Rev. Thomas Henry Sr. was a firm believer in
6 higher learning; during his 50 years of service, he started
7 many programs to enhance the lives of young people in the
8 Austin community; he founded the Austin Christian School and
9 served as executive director of the Austin Baptist UCC Day
10 Care & Head Start Program; he provided summer jobs, day camp,
11 and food pantries; he also served as a truant officer for
12 Chicago Public Schools, as director of the youth program for
13 the Chicago Archdiocese, and as a prison chaplain for the Cook
14 County Sheriff's Department; and

15 WHEREAS, Rev. Thomas Henry Sr. was known for his sense of
16 humor and his smile that always started in his eyes; he had a
17 beautiful tenor voice, loved music and singing, and had been a
18 member of the Thompson Community Singers; he was an avid
19 reader; he enjoyed watching the news, traveling, and sports,
20 especially baseball; he will be remembered as a kind, generous
21 man who dedicated his life to serving others; and

22 WHEREAS, Rev. Thomas Henry Sr. was preceded in death by
23 his parents; his sisters, Willie McLaurin and Rosa Lavine; and

1 his brothers, Charles Henry, Booker T. Henry, and John Henry;
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3 WHEREAS, Rev. Thomas Henry Sr. is survived by his brother,
4 Daniel Henry (Lois); his sisters, Mary Sykes and Madelyn
5 Williams; his sister-in-law, Bobbi Henry; his children, Thomas
6 G. Henry Jr., Patrice McClellan, LaShaun Crump (Todd), Michael
7 Henry (Veranda), Bridget Henry, and Jelisa Matthews; his
8 grandchildren, Demetrius Haywood, Byron Turner (Aiesha), Omari
9 McClellan (Charlotte), Shani Douglas (Danyale), Zachary Henry,
10 Blake Henry (Celeste), Zoie Henry, Drew Henry, and Jaliah
11 Matthews; 14 great-grandchildren; other children he considered
12 and raised as his own; his best friend, Ernesto Scott and his
13 extended family; the members of Austin Baptist United Church
14 of Christ; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and
15 friends; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
18 Rev. Thomas G. Henry Sr. and extend our sincere condolences to
19 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to the family of Rev. Thomas Henry Sr. as an
23 expression of our deepest sympathy.