



SR0543

LRB102 20869 ECR 29752 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 Reverend Alphonso Lyons Jr. of Peoria, who passed away on September 21, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Reverend Alphonso Lyons was born in Peoria to Alphonso Sr. and Ellora (Derrick) Lyons on March 22, 1949; he graduated from Manual High School in 1967 and from Bradley University in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Religious Studies; he later received a master's degree in Education and Administration from Bradley; he was ordained in 1974; he married Cheryl G. Green in 1975, and they had two children together; he later married Charlene Grant Coates, and they raised five children together; and

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WHEREAS, Reverend Alphonso Lyons served as an assistant pastor under the guidance of Dr. Wendall R. Phillips at Mount Zion Baptist Church; in May of 1974, he began serving as interim pastor; in October of 1974, the church selected him as the head pastor, where he has been known for his gentleness and his dynamic teaching style; he also worked as a substitute teacher for Peoria Public Schools for many years, teaching several subjects, including French; and

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WHEREAS, Reverend Alphonso Lyons donated his time and

1 talents to numerous organizations, including serving as
2 chairman of the Peoria Christian Leadership Council, as
3 moderator of the Central District Congress, as past president
4 of the Central District Association, as chairman of the board
5 of the Peoria Christian Leadership Council, as a member of the
6 Peoria Baptist Ministerial Alliance, as a member of the Peoria
7 Ministerial Economic Development organization, as a member of
8 the Committee to Establish a Peoria Charter School, as a
9 member of the Peoria Lion's Club, as a board member of the
10 Manual High School Advisory Board, as past president of the
11 Central District Congress, as a past corresponding secretary
12 for the Baptist General State Convention of Illinois
13 (2002-2008), as a past instructor for the Central District
14 Congress, as a past instructor for the Baptist General State
15 Convention of Illinois (1976-1979), and as a past secretary
16 for the PAMA (Peoria Area Ministerial Association); he also
17 was a former contributing writer to the religious column in
18 the Peoria Journal Star; and

19 WHEREAS, Always looking for ways to make his church and
20 the community more financially grounded, Reverend Alphonso
21 Lyons founded Mount Zions' Effort to Equip the Community
22 (METEC), a community development corporation that provides
23 resources to help families and individuals with housing and
24 employment; he served on METEC's board since its inception in
25 2001; and

1 WHEREAS, Reverend Alphonso Lyons was preceded in death by
2 his father and four grandchildren, Jeremiah Hayes, Deshaun
3 Hayes, Jazmine "BJ" Ivy, and Brandon Grant; and

4 WHEREAS, Reverend Alphonso Lyons is survived by his loving
5 and devoted wife, Charlene Lyons; his children, Devon Lyons,
6 Frank Coates, Willie Coates, Crystal Grant, and Danielle
7 Lyons; his loving mother, Ellora Lyons; his siblings, Michael
8 Lyons, Don (Annie) Lyons, Curtis Lyons, Charla (Rev. James)
9 Fleming, Cheryll (Keith) Boswell, and Ruthi Lyons; his 20
10 grandchildren; his host of great-grandchildren; his host of
11 nieces and nephews; and his other relatives, friends and the
12 Mount Zion Baptist Church family; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 Reverend Alphonso Lyons Jr. and extend our sincere condolences
16 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Reverend Alphonso Lyons as an
20 expression of our deepest sympathy.