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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 Marvella "Madea" Alexander Humphrey, who passed away on August 2, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Marvella Humphrey was born to Fred Douglas and Ida Jane Alexander in Marvell, Arkansas on March 24, 1919; a lover of knowledge, she perfected her reading, writing, and various other skills throughout her life, despite receiving only a fourth grade education; she married James Humphrey in 1937; and

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WHEREAS, When Marvella Humphrey's children were young, she was a stay-at-home mom; when the children were older, she gained employment pressing clothes at a laundromat; in 1957, the family relocated to Chicago, and she opened her own home daycare; she cared for many children until her retirement in 1994; and

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WHEREAS, In 1958, Marvella Humphrey joined Mt. Sinai Baptist Church where she was a choir member; in 1975, she moved her membership to United Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Wilson Daniels; she was an active and faithful member who worked with the clothing ministry, was a member of Sunday School Class #2, served as a missionary who visited the

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1 sick and shut-in, served as a member of the Mother's Board, and
2 sang in the choir until she was 101 years old; and

3 WHEREAS, Anyone who knew Marvella Humphrey knew she loved
4 church and her church family; she loved church so much that she
5 felt the need to be there whenever the church doors were
6 opened; with the assistance of her friends, Pearline Flemings,
7 Earlene Jackson, and Ida Wright, she tried to attend every
8 service, activity, and funeral; and

9 WHEREAS, Marvella Humphrey was an example of faith,
10 humility, joy, and kindness; she had a generous heart and
11 would give her last to anyone even if she needed it herself;
12 she loved her family and made them her number one priority;
13 family gatherings brought her great joy; she was a natural
14 comedian with a quirky sense of humor and an infectious laugh;
15 she was a forgiving person with a heart of gold; and

16 WHEREAS, Marvella Humphrey was preceded in death by her
17 parents; her siblings, Welton, Ertha Lean, Samuel, and Dozie
18 and Naomi, Arlena, Florence, and Maude Ella; her husband; her
19 son, James Jr.; and her two grandchildren, Lydia and Anthony;
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21 WHEREAS, Marvella Humphrey is survived by her daughters,
22 Margaret, Verlyn, and Katherine (George); her grandson, Marcus

1 (Patricia); her great-grandson, Sean; her eight grandchildren;
2 her twenty-two great-grandchildren; her nineteen
3 great-great-grandchildren; her sister, Dorsey B. Robinson; and
4 a host of relatives, extended family, and many friends;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
8 Marvella "Madea" Alexander Humphrey and extend our sincere
9 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
10 her; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Marvella Humphrey as an expression
13 of our deepest sympathy.