



SR1138

LRB102 28556 LAW 40433 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 Raymond Allen Murray Jr. of the Chatham neighborhood of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Raymond Murray was born in 1923 and was one of eight children; he graduated from Wendell Phillips High School in Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Raymond Murray enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943; he reported to Montford Point, the segregated base outside Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina, becoming one of the 20,000 Black marines to break the color barrier through integrating the Marine Corps during World War II; he was a steward and rifleman who served in combat against Japanese forces at the Battle of Okinawa, and he ultimately earned the rank of sergeant; during his service, he also boxed, winning a featherweight title in a competition among troops serving in the Pacific theater in Yokohama, Japan; and

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WHEREAS, After the war, Raymond Murray mixed Canfield's pop at the old A.J. Canfield Company bottler in Chicago; he was also a driver for what is known today as PepsiCo; and

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WHEREAS, Raymond Murray coached boxing for the Chicago

1 Park District, becoming a mentor, father figure, and hero to  
2 many; and

3 WHEREAS, Raymond Murray served as a Democratic precinct  
4 captain in the sixth ward and was a member of the Chicago  
5 chapter of the Montford Point Marine Association, Inc. (MPMA);  
6 for being one of the original Montford Point Marines, he  
7 received a Congressional Gold Medal in Chicago in 2012; and

8 WHEREAS, Raymond Murray will especially be remembered for  
9 serving his country with tenacity, valor, and distinction; and

10 WHEREAS, Raymond Murray is survived by his wife, Esther;  
11 his stepdaughter, LaDonna Bonner; and his sister, Frances;  
12 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 Raymond Allen Murray Jr. and extend our sincere condolences to  
16 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
17 further

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