



SR1264

LRB102 20066 LAW 28911 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Ethel Lee Chestnut-Sharkey, who
4 passed away on August 30, 2021; and

5 WHEREAS, Ethel Chestnut-Sharkey was born to Willie and
6 Cora Hunter-Chestnut in Drew, Mississippi on October 20, 1933;
7 she was educated in Sunflower County, Mississippi; she married
8 Howard Sharkey Sr. in 1950, and they had 11 children; and

9 WHEREAS, Ethel Chestnut-Sharkey held a variety of jobs to
10 provide for her family; she worked as a cafeteria clerk for the
11 Chicago Public Schools; she retired as the salad chef from The
12 Exchange Bank; after retirement, she worked part time with
13 Helping Home; and

14 WHEREAS, Ethel Chestnut-Sharkey committed to her faith at
15 an early age at the Second Baptist Church in Blue Lake,
16 Mississippi, and she was baptized in the river; she joined the
17 Fellowship M.B. Church on November 5, 1958, where she belonged
18 to the Inspirational Choir and then The Senior Choir; she was
19 presented with the Anchor Award for her over 60-year
20 membership; and

21 WHEREAS, Ethel Chestnut-Sharkey was known for wearing many

1 hats over the course of her life, and she was called by many
2 endearing names, including Madear, Momma, Granny, Big Granny,
3 Hilda, Beulah, Sister, and friend; and

4 WHEREAS, Ethel Chestnut-Sharkey was preceded in death by
5 her parents; her siblings, Katherine Pittman, James Chester
6 Woods, Virgie Jones, Bessie Ray, Maggie Mae Greene, Cora
7 Palmer, and Charles Chestnut; her husband, Howard Sharkey Sr.;
8 and her child, Jessie Lee; and

9 WHEREAS, Ethel Chestnut-Sharkey is survived by her sons,
10 Howard Sharkey Jr. (Eurnice), Rev. James W. Sharkey (the late
11 Deborah), Willie Earl Sharkey, Edward Earl Sharkey (Lorraine),
12 Barry Allen Sharkey (Gwen), Percy T. Sharkey (Dorothy), Larry
13 D. Chestnut, Percy M. Sharkey (Sheriot), and Rev. Neko Sharkey
14 (Catherice); her daughters, Jessie Mae Sharkey, Margaret
15 Banks, Vanessa Sharkey, Rochelle Sharkey, Cynthia Richardson,
16 Carmenseda J. Sharkey, Navita (Cetris) Ivy, and Carlotta Hoy;
17 her 53 grandchildren; her 37 great-grandchildren; her
18 great-great-grandchild; her brother, Luther Chestnut (Flora);
19 Ann Chestnut; Sue McElroy; Dorothy Holloway; Nancy Brown; her
20 brothers in-law, James Sharkey, Alfred Sharkey (Dorothy), and
21 Michael Johnson; a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins; her
22 special friends, Loudella Evans-Reid, Florida Foulks, Wanda,
23 Regina Frazier, Martha Young, Helena Daniels, Chante, Davita
24 Trum, and Renee Bradford; and her Fellowship Church family of

1 62 years; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
4 Ethel Lee Chestnut-Sharkey and extend our sincere condolences
5 to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be
6 it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Ethel Chestnut-Sharkey as an
9 expression of our deepest sympathy.