



SR1329

LRB102 29667 ECR 41706 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 Dr. Gerald L. Clay, who passed away on November 4, 2022 at the age of 81; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Gerald Clay served in both the United States Army and Navy, where he achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Gerald Clay was a longtime resident of Oak Park and an active and visionary member and leader of the Oak Park community, participating in numerous Oak Park civic and community organizations; and

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WHEREAS, In 1988, Dr. Gerald Clay joined with fellow Longfellow Elementary School parents to found African-American Parents for Purposeful Leadership in Education (APPLE), and to this day, APPLE advocates for students of color with a focus on the African-American student experience, equity and fairness, and support for scholarships; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Gerald Clay also helped create Rites of Passage to support young black men growing into manhood, and participants have credited this ceremony as a meaningful turning point in their lives; and

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1 WHEREAS, Dr. Gerald Clay co-founded Black-White Dialogues
2 with fellow Oak Park Lanny Lutz to provide community members
3 with the opportunity to gather and discuss racial issues; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Gerald Clay was among the first to volunteer
5 his support for then candidate Don Harmon for State Senate; he
6 continued to serve as an advisor and mentor to Senator Harmon
7 and served as chair of the 39th District Scholarship Selection
8 Committee; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Gerald Clay established the Gerald L. Clay
10 Scholarship, a merit and needs-based fund to help
11 African-American male students at Oak Park River Forest High
12 School to pursue their academic goals and dreams; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Gerald Clay is survived by his wife of 58
14 years, Retired Judge Evelyn Brown Clay; his daughter,
15 Tracy-Elizabeth Clay; his son, Dr. Lamont G. Clay; and his
16 three grandchildren, Hannah, Isaac, and Harper; therefore, be
17 it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
20 Dr. Gerald L. Clay and extend our sincere condolences to his
21 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to the family of Dr. Gerald L. Clay as an expression
4 of our deepest gratitude and sympathy.