



HR0005

LRB103 05470 LAW 50489 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of radio  
4 and TV personality Floyd A. Brown of Elgin, who passed away on  
5 December 9, 2022; and

6           WHEREAS, Floyd Brown was born to Faye Lee  
7 McFarland-Grayson and Lewis O. Woods in Dallas, Texas on  
8 November 5, 1930; he left Texas at an early age, moving to  
9 Washington, D.C., where he graduated from high school at the  
10 age of 16; he served in the U.S. Army; and

11           WHEREAS, Floyd Brown's military service led him to become  
12 an engineer at radio station WRMN in Elgin in 1951, and his  
13 career included working as program manager and personality for  
14 WYNR; he was the first African American to sign with NBC and  
15 WMAQ, where he was an announcer and on-air personality; he  
16 worked at WGN from 1971 to 1999, during which he worked as a  
17 sportscaster and sports anchor on the evening news; with his  
18 iconic voice, he hosted The Floyd Brown Show on WGN for more  
19 than 29 years, where he featured entertainment, music,  
20 interviews, and news/business topics, and his guests included  
21 such legendary jazz artists as Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton,  
22 and Ella Fitzgerald; in addition to his time at WGN, he joined  
23 the Chicago Sunday Evening Club in 1985 and hosted WTTW's 30

1 Good Minutes until he retired in 1996; and

2 WHEREAS, Floyd Brown contributed his time and talents to  
3 the arts and civic life in his local community of Elgin; he was  
4 a founding member of the Elgin Human Relations Commission and  
5 served as president of the Elgin Housing Commission and  
6 marketing director for the Kane County Fair; he was master of  
7 ceremonies for WGN's Know Your Heritage, the Bud Billiken  
8 Parade, the Gospel Stellar Awards, and Central City  
9 Productions; and

10 WHEREAS, Floyd Brown received many awards, including the  
11 D. Ray Wilson Volunteer Service Award from Judson University,  
12 the Friend of Education Award from Elgin Community College,  
13 and the Trailblazer Award from the Quad City Urban League; he  
14 was inducted into WGN Radio's Walk of Fame on March 22, 2016;  
15 he was also recognized for his achievements as a civil rights  
16 activist and his commitment to supporting the arts; and

17 WHEREAS, Floyd Brown, an avid golfer and sports  
18 enthusiast, was the first African American to become a member  
19 of a private country club in the State of Illinois; he served  
20 on the board of the United States Golf Association and the  
21 Chicago District Golf Association; and

22 WHEREAS, Floyd Brown will be remembered as a legendary

1 trailblazer whose major role and notoriety as a Black man in  
2 media paved the way for other people of color to achieve  
3 success in broadcasting, while simultaneously bringing joy and  
4 entertainment to homes across the country; and

5 WHEREAS, Floyd Brown was preceded in death by his parents;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Floyd Brown is survived by his wife of 67 years,  
8 Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Brown; his son, Judge Floyd Keith  
9 Brown; his daughter, Diane Brown; his grandchildren, Marcus  
10 (Amanda) Brown, Nicole Brown, Jordan Douglas, and Taylor  
11 Douglas; and his great-grandchildren, Mikayla, Caleb, and  
12 Cassidy Brown; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
14 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15 we mourn the passing of Floyd A. Brown and extend our sincere  
16 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
17 him; and be it further

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