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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Larry
4 Rogers Sr., who passed away on January 19, 2023; and

5 WHEREAS, Larry Rogers grew up on the far South Side in the
6 Roseland community of Chicago; he received his education in
7 Catholic schools and excelled in academics; he was accepted
8 into law school after graduating college but was forced to put
9 his legal career on hold due to a health issue; and

10 WHEREAS, Larry Rogers left law school to work three jobs
11 to care for his family, including working as a respiratory
12 therapist; one of his two other jobs included working at a gas
13 station across the street from Comiskey Park, where he began a
14 40-year friendship with a regular customer named Joe Power, a
15 young attorney who encouraged him to complete law school,
16 which he did; they later formed the personal law and medical
17 malpractice law firm, Power Rogers, LLP; and

18 WHEREAS, During his nearly four-decade legal career, Larry
19 Rogers would emerge as a mastermind in the courtroom, winning
20 hundreds of millions of dollars in verdicts for victims of
21 medical malpractice, motor vehicle negligence, and aviation
22 accidents; in 1985, he won a \$27 million product liability

1 verdict, the largest personal injury victory in Illinois
2 history at the time, for families who had been wronged by
3 Syntex, a baby formula company that sold chloride-deficient
4 formula that affected the intellectual development of babies,
5 shortly after the Department of Justice declined to press
6 charges against the company; in 2000, he helped win a \$55
7 million verdict, one of the largest in Illinois history, for a
8 woman who suffered irreversible brain damage during a
9 bronchoscopy exam; he paid his success forward in mentorship,
10 guidance, and support of Black students and attorneys who had
11 long been excluded from the legal world; and

12 WHEREAS, Larry Rogers previously served as the president
13 of the Cook County Bar Association and was the first Black
14 president of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association; he was
15 named one of the top 500 trial lawyers in the nation; and

16 WHEREAS, Larry Rogers was an avid sports fan, holding
17 season tickets for the Chicago Bulls and the Chicago Bears; he
18 also enjoyed taking his Sea Ray sport boat out on Lake Michigan
19 and occasionally to Florida or the Bahamas for vacations,
20 often bringing along family, friends, and even other
21 attorneys; and

22 WHEREAS, Larry Rogers was a trailblazer who served as a
23 role model for generations of lawyers and helped the Black

1 community defend its most vulnerable members; he devoted his
2 life to the Black community, his family, and the passion of
3 building a more equitable justice system in the United States;
4 he was generous and eager to spread joy to those he loved;
5 above all, he was a dedicated and loving father and
6 grandfather; and

7 WHEREAS, Larry Rogers is survived by his life partner, Pam
8 Anderson; his children and stepchildren, Larry Jr., Dom, Anne
9 Marie and Frederic; his nieces and nephews; and his
10 grandchildren; therefore, be it

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

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Larry Rogers as an expression of our
18 deepest sympathy.