



SR0321

LRB103 32485 LAW 61987 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Loretta Cecelia (Wright) Johnson, who passed away on May 8, 2023; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Loretta Johnson was born to Herman and Velma Wright in 1947; she was raised in the Bronzeville community, where she attended both Coleman and Willard Elementary Schools; she was educated in the Chicago Public School system and graduated from Hirsh High School in the 1960s; she later attended DePaul University; she took adult education classes in car repair and dance, and she even pursued her master gardener and real estate certifications; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

WHEREAS, Loretta Johnson loved to delegate, direct, and instruct, spending most of her professional years teaching others art, cooking, and other creative endeavors; whether her students were intellectually disabled adults, blind adults, or young children, she helped them push boundaries and believe in themselves; she was employed with the Federal Reserve Bank, Blue Cross Blue Shield, the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, Operation PUSH, Inc., the DuSable Museum of African American History as the manager of operations and the museum store, the Camp of Dreams youth development organization, and the family business, HerVel's Ceramics Arts and Crafts; and

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

1           WHEREAS, Loretta Johnson cared deeply for her community  
2 and frequently served as a volunteer; in 1995, she became one  
3 of the first beat facilitators of Chicago's Community  
4 Alternative Policing Program (CAPS), advocating for safe  
5 communities at the neighborhood, district, and citywide  
6 levels, and she served CAPS for over 20 years; she actively  
7 supported the election of Harold Washington as a co-precinct  
8 captain in Chicago's Sixth Ward, which resulted in a 100%  
9 precinct turnout, and she was an early supporter of Barack  
10 Obama in his various community and political campaigns; she  
11 also gave her time to the Luncheon is Served product marketing  
12 program, raising thousands of dollars for churches and  
13 nonprofit organizations throughout the Chicago area; and

14           WHEREAS, Loretta Johnson committed to her faith at a young  
15 age at Liberty Baptist Church, where she was an active  
16 participant in Sunday school, organized the church's official  
17 greeters, participated in the oratory program, and was named  
18 Golden Jubilee Queen for the church's 50th anniversary, which  
19 raised funds to support the church's educational program; as  
20 an adult, she attended Christ Universal Temple and taught  
21 Sunday school; she later joined Trinity United Church of  
22 Christ, where she served on the scholarship and community  
23 donations review committees; and

1           WHEREAS, Loretta Johnson loved her independence and  
2 sharing knowledge; she will be remembered for living a life of  
3 determination, advocacy, passion, and deep love; and

4           WHEREAS, Loretta Johnson is survived by her daughter,  
5 Mekeda (Kevin) Johnson-Brooks; her granddaughter, Jasmin  
6 Brooks; her mother, Velma Wright; her sister, Antoinette  
7 Wright; her nephews, Joshua Alexander Sr. and Joshua "JC"  
8 Alexander Jr.; and a host of relatives, friends, fellow  
9 advocates, and colleagues; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
12 Loretta Cecelia (Wright) Johnson and extend our sincere  
13 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
14 her; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to the family of Loretta Johnson as an expression of  
17 our deepest sympathy.