



SR0341

LRB103 32640 MST 62309 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of James Cole of Chicago, who passed away on July 11, 2022 at the age of 78; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, James Cole was born in Humboldt, Tennessee to Gertie and Vernon Cole, who were both sharecroppers; and

6

7

WHEREAS, James Cole arrived on the West Side of Chicago as a ninth grader and attended Marshall High School; and

8

9

WHEREAS, During his early adult life, James Cole worked in welding and at the Ford Motor Company assembly plant on Chicago's South Side; and

10

11

12

WHEREAS, Outside of a pool hall on Madison Street and Kedzie Avenue, James Cole began to shine shoes and used his earnings to play a game or two inside; and

13

14

15

WHEREAS, Before long, shoe shining became more lucrative for James Cole than his daily 9 to 5 job; at a stand outside of a West Side record store, he turned his hobby into a professional business; ultimately, he took the lease for the entire building; and

16

17

18

19

1 WHEREAS, In 1968, James Cole expanded Shine King to its
2 current location on Central Avenue and Lake Street; from 1970
3 to 2003, he also ran a separate site at 3954 W. Madison Street;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, For nearly 60 years, James Cole offered
6 employment at Shine King to at-risk youth and the formerly
7 incarcerated; in turn, these employees provided quality
8 service to prominent individuals such as bluesman Little
9 Milton, R&B singer Johnnie Taylor, Chicago Mayors Harold
10 Washington and Lori Lightfoot, and soon-to-be U.S. Senator and
11 President, Barack Obama; and

12 WHEREAS, James Cole parlayed the success of Shine King
13 into additional business ventures that included real estate,
14 roofing, and tailoring; and

15 WHEREAS, Two of James Coles's favorite music genres were
16 blues and gospel; during business hours at Shine King, songs
17 by The Caravans, James Cleveland, and the Mighty Clouds of Joy
18 were played in heavy rotation; and

19 WHEREAS, James Cole was a loyal Chicago Bulls fan; as a
20 25-year season ticket holder, he witnessed six championships
21 firsthand; and

1 WHEREAS, James Cole was preceded in death by his parents,
2 Gertie and Vernon; and

3 WHEREAS, James Cole is survived by his children, Vernon,
4 Steve, Jameson, Karen, Darlene, and Ariel; 25 grandchildren;
5 and his great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
8 James Cole and extend our sincere condolences to his family,
9 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of James Cole as an expression of our
12 deepest sympathy.