



SR0840

LRB103 39877 MST 70765 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 Billie Jean Miller, who passed away on February 25, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, Billie Miller was born in Brooklyn to Annie Mae and Nathaniel O'Bannon Sr. on June 23, 1936, the youngest of 13 children; she graduated from Lincoln Senior High School in East St. Louis; she married Henry Miller Sr., and the couple had nine children, leading to more than 80 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

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WHEREAS, Billie Miller was the owner and proprietor of Billie's Pastries, known as The Doughnut Shop to the many regulars who have visited since it opened approximately 44 years ago; the shop was a landmark for regulars, aspiring politicians, public officials, and the broader St. Clair County community; and

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WHEREAS, Billie Miller previously worked at the General Assistance office in Centreville, now a part of Cahokia Heights, where she worked to inspire, uplift, and motivate her clients; she also worked as a teacher's assistant in East St. Louis School District 189 for nearly 20 years, supporting students in numerous ways; and

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1 WHEREAS, Billie Miller served for more than 35 years as a
2 Republican precinct committeewoman; she became clerk and city
3 treasurer of Centreville and served on a number of boards; her
4 focus on helping people throughout her life earned her an
5 award from the NAACP, presented to her by Congressman John
6 Lewis, whose words on joining a "good fight" she often echoed;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Billie Miller was a member of the Church of the
9 Living God in Fairview Heights; she was a very active parent,
10 volunteering when needed and supporting all of her children's
11 activities; and

12 WHEREAS, Billie Miller touched many lives; she was a
13 person of faith who could be tough when needed but always fair
14 and kind; she will be remembered for her passion for helping
15 others, her political savvy, her strength of character, her
16 role as a family matriarch, and the community impact of her
17 business, Billie's Pastries; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
20 Billie Jean Miller and extend our sincere condolences to her
21 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
22 further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Billie Miller as an expression of
3 our deepest sympathy.