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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the Ninety-Third General Assembly were saddened to learn of the passing of Launa Thompson of Oak Park on Sunday, June 20, 2004; and

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WHEREAS, Launa Thompson was a native of Detroit, Michigan, and earned her B.A. in sociology and vocational rehabilitation from Wilberforce University in Ohio and a master's degree in guidance counseling from the University of Cincinnati; and

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WHEREAS, Launa Thompson switched from social work to sales in the 1970s and had her first radio job with what was then WVON/WGCI Radio in 1980, later working for the Gannett Corporation, Black Entertainment Television, and two other radio stations, before returning to WGCI as national account manager in 1994, where she was promoted to general sales manager in 1996; and

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WHEREAS, Launa Thompson led WGCI AM/FM to become the top billing radio station in Chicago for advertising sales revenue in 1999, and a top billing station in the country, and was named manager of the three Clear Channel Chicago stations, WGCI-AM/FM and WVAZ-FM in November; and

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WHEREAS, Launa Thompson, as manager of Chicago's top-rated music station, was named the ninth most powerful woman in Chicago media by the Chicago Sun-Times, and one of the most influential African Americans in radio by the trade publication, Radio Ink; and

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WHEREAS, Launa Thompson did volunteer work for Wilberforce Alumni Association, League of Black Women, Black Ensemble Theatre, American Women in Radio and Television, Friends of LaRabida Hospital, and Midwest Women's Center; helped raise money for Wonder Works children's museum in Oak Park; and was

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1 active in the Apostolic Church of God; and

2 WHEREAS, Launa Thompson received the Kissei Award and was  
3 recognized by "Dollars and Sense" magazine, "Radio and  
4 Records", and the Broadcast Advertising Club of Chicago; she  
5 was a public speaker and mentor for many individuals aspiring  
6 to enter the broadcast sales arena; and

7 WHEREAS, Launa Thompson served as a role model for women  
8 and minorities, and is remembered for her caring nature, charm,  
9 extraordinary people skills, and as being an easygoing boss who  
10 inspired loyalty; and

11 WHEREAS, Launa Thompson's passing was deeply felt by many,  
12 especially her husband, Abe Thompson; her son, Phoenix; her  
13 mother, Daisy B. Gaines; and her many colleagues, friends, and  
14 family; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the death of  
17 Launa Thompson; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to the family of Launa Thompson as an expression of  
20 our sorrow for their loss.