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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois learned with regret of the death of Joan Carole Miller Wood on Friday, April 8, 2005; and

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WHEREAS, She was born in Jefferson City, Missouri, on August 1, 1940, to James Erroll Miller, Ph.D., and Grace Odessa Thomas Miller; she grew up on the campus of Lincoln University, a historically black college, where she developed a passion for education and a love of the written word; after attending Washington Elementary school, she became one of the first African Americans to attend Jefferson City Senior High School; while in high school, she was the recipient of many accolades, including induction into the National Honor Society and receiving the Outstanding Journalist award; and

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WHEREAS, After graduating with honors, she went on to attend Wellesley College in Massachusetts; while pursuing her degree in political science, she forged friendships with the few other African Americans on campus, there were only seven, and the friendships last until this day; she especially enjoyed her time in Massachusetts with trips to Boston, Harvard parties, Yale football games, pledging Delta Sigma Theta, and peppermint ice cream with chocolate sauce from the dormitory cafeteria; and

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WHEREAS, After graduating from Wellesley, she moved to Philadelphia to attend the University of Pennsylvania, Annenberg School of Communications, where she earned her degree in photojournalism; her professional career began in the Washington, D.C., office of U.S. Senator Edward Long of Missouri; this job honed her analytical and writing skills and instilled in her a commitment to community service; armed with these tools and a passion for human equality, she went to work for the St. Louis Urban League and later the Louisville Urban

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1 League, where she met her groom, Clarence N. Wood; and

2 WHEREAS, They were married August 15, 1970, at the home of  
3 her parents on the campus of Indiana University; shortly after  
4 they married she became a National Urban Fellow, and the  
5 newlyweds soon moved to Akron, Ohio; while in Ohio, Mrs. Wood  
6 worked for the Cleveland Foundation and completed additional  
7 graduate work in Public Administration; on May 13, 1972, Joan  
8 and Clarence were blessed with the birth of their only child,  
9 Carole, named after her mother; and

10 WHEREAS, Over the years, Mrs. Wood's commitment to  
11 community service was demonstrated through her work as: the  
12 National Executive Director of the Settlement House  
13 Association of America (New York); Senior Program Officer of  
14 the Chicago Community Trust; Director, Senior staff associate  
15 of the National Council of Negro Women; and Principal, Miller  
16 Wood Associates - business consulting (Chicago); she served as  
17 a consultant for various entities often as "angel in the  
18 background"; and

19 WHEREAS, She was an avid reader, music lover, and patron of  
20 the arts; she served on the boards of the Frank Lloyd Wright  
21 Preservation Trust, the Chicago Chamber Musicians, the Jane  
22 Addams Juvenile Court Foundation, and the Woman's Board of the  
23 Field Museum; she loved spending time with her friends,  
24 traveling with the Network, New Years Day parties in New York,  
25 holiday celebrations, and season tickets to local theatre; and

26 WHEREAS, Known for her wit and grace, Mrs. Wood was able to  
27 immediately make friends and acquaintances feel at ease and  
28 comfortable; additionally, she had a way of making people feel  
29 so special because she remembered so many of "the little  
30 things"; although she would be the first to deny it, she was a  
31 gifted hostess and given to excitingly marvelous recipes and  
32 tablescapes; and

1           WHEREAS, The passing of Joan Carole Miller Wood has been  
2 deeply felt by many, especially her husband, Clarence; her  
3 daughter, Carole; her son-in-law, Carl Jenkins; her brother,  
4 James Erroll Miller II; her niece, Kimberly Miller; her nephew,  
5 James Erroll Miller III; her loving cousins, James and Olivia  
6 Fleming and their children and grandchildren, Jana, Jennifer,  
7 James Jr., John, Sam, Jake, Journey, and Olivia; her foster  
8 sons, Garaen Flake and Phillip Rivers; and her many cousins,  
9 friends, and loved ones; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
11 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
12 we mourn the passing of Joan Carole Miller Wood, and we extend  
13 our sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who  
14 knew and loved her; and be it further

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