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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 sadness of the death of Mr. Michael "Cheap Willie" Francis, Sr., on Thursday, February 23, 2006; and

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WHEREAS, He was born on March 15, 1958, to Mr. Henry Lee and Melzina Francis in East Chicago, Indiana; he grew up the eighth child of fifteen and was preceded in death by both parents; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Francis moved to Chicago with his family in 1967, where he attended Anthony Overton Grammar School and graduated from Calumet High School in 1977; and

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WHEREAS, He enlisted in the U. S. Navy, serving for four years; he was discharged with honors; and

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WHEREAS, He worked at Sweetheart Cup Company, where he met and married Rita Wines; he confessed his life to Christ in 1997 at the Starlight M.B. Church under the leadership of Rev. David Brown; and

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WHEREAS, The passing of Michael Francis, Sr., has been deeply felt by many, especially his wife, Rita; his daughters, Lisa and Angela; his sons, Michael, Jr., and Bryant; his sisters, Ruby Jean, Claudia, Floretta, Sharon, Janice (Maceo), and Ethel (Jason); his brothers, Henry, Jr., Robert, Joe (Marie), Jeffery, Phillip (Rachel), Melvin, Eric (Sarah), and Bernard; his grandchildren, Jeremiah, Arrianna, and Asia; and his many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends; therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

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1 we mourn the passing of Mr. Michael "Cheap Willie" Francis,
2 Sr., and we extend our deepest sympathy to his family, friends,
3 and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to his family as an expression of our sincerest
6 condolences.