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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to express their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Leroy Percy Jones, of Waukegan, Illinois, who passed away on July 25, 2006; and

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WHEREAS, Leroy Percy Jones was born January 22, 1916 in Blanton, Mississippi, to Benjamin Franklin Jones II and Virginia Jones; he was the youngest of eight children; he accepted Christ at an early age under the ministerial leadership of his grandfather, Benjamin F. Jones I, Pastor of Jones Chapel Methodist Church; and

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WHEREAS, He received his early education in Blanton schools; after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Army, where he served in World War II and continued to serve until he received an honorable discharge on February 4, 1946; following his tour in the military he enrolled at Alcorn State University where he received his Bachelor of Science degree; later he received his Master of Science degree from Jackson State University; and

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WHEREAS, On September 11, 1948, he married his college sweetheart, Dorothy Rose Caldwell; and

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WHEREAS, Leroy Jones held his first teaching job in Leland, Mississippi; there he became a member of St. James Methodist Church and served faithfully until he moved to Arcola, Mississippi due to a job promotion; in Arcola, he joined the local A.M.E church where he served as Sunday School Superintendent; and

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WHEREAS, He worked as a school principal in Jonestown, Mississippi, until he retired in 1978; and

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1           WHEREAS, He spent his entire life serving his community; he  
2 was a lifetime member of the National Association for the  
3 Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where he served as  
4 treasurer and secretary; he was a member of Phi Beta Sigma  
5 Fraternity, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the  
6 Alcorn Alumni Association, and served on the Board of  
7 Director's of the Coahoma County HeadStart program; and

8           WHEREAS, He was dedicated to the cause of civil rights; he  
9 was also a faithful member of Haven United Methodist Church,  
10 Clarksdale, Mississippi, for over fifty years, where he served  
11 as Sunday School teacher, a member of the finance committee, a  
12 class leader, and a member of the Board of Trustees; he later  
13 joined Grace United Methodist Church after moving to Memphis,  
14 Tennessee to live with his son, and finally Shiloh Baptist  
15 Church in Waukegan, where he was a faithful member of the  
16 Timothy Sunday School class; and

17           WHEREAS, After his move to Waukegan he continued his  
18 involvement with the NAACP and joined the Waukegan Exchange  
19 Club; and

20           WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his siblings,  
21 Benjamin, William, Inez, and Emma, as well as his wife, Lela  
22 Jones; and

23           WHEREAS, Leroy Percy Jones is survived by his former wife  
24 and mother of his children, Dorothy Armsted; his children,  
25 Russell (Alice) Jones, Gregory Jones, and Patricia Jones; his  
26 three sisters, Beulah Sanifer, Elizabeth Pollard, and Lucille  
27 Cunningham; his brother-in-law, Robert Miles; his  
28 sister-and-law, Alberta Jones; his grandchildren, Rushelle  
29 Jones-Cyrus (Carlos), Russell Jones II (Asata), Nakia Milot,  
30 Marc Jones, and Rushen Jones; his great-grandchildren; and a  
31 host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3           we mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of  
4           Leroy Percy Jones; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6           presented to the family of Leroy Percy Jones.