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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois learned with sadness of the death of Burnnette Watson, age 75, of Chicago, on August 28, 2005; and

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WHEREAS, She was born on May 9, 1930, in Earl, Arkansas, to Spencer Jones and Eliza Bolton; she had 4 brothers, Floyd, Theodore, Ernest, and Preston; her mom moved them to Chicago when Burnnette was young; she graduated from DuSable High School in 1948; and

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WHEREAS, Burnnette was a Certified Nurse's Aide at Mercy Hospital for thirty years in the Pediatric Unit; "Burn", as she was affectionately called, loved the babies and children who were patients; she gave her patients nicknames to soothe them or cheer them; her kindness to patients was well known by Mercy's doctors and nurses; in 1994, she retired from Mercy, but she never forgot the friends with whom she worked; and

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WHEREAS, Burnnette gave life to three children, Annetha, Odell, and Nannette; additionally, she reared three sons, Edward, Henry, and Eddy, and helped raise two other sons, Michael and Elkin; Burn's home was big in heart; she always had extra servings at mealtime for family members, her children's friends, or neighborhood children; in addition to Burn's delicious food, the children in her home, whether they were there for a meal, a month, or a lifetime, received a laugh or a giggle, encouraging words, and, if necessary, a dose of Burn's discipline-always firm, but loving; and

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WHEREAS, Burnnette's faith was deeply important to her; Burnnette's membership in the Bethel A.M.E. Church lasted almost 60 years before she was called home; at Bethel, her beautiful voice was part of the Annie Laura Stewart Ensemble; and she dutifully served as a steward up to the time of her

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1 death; and

2 WHEREAS, She was preceded in death by her daughter,  
3 Nannette; her parents; two brothers, Theodore and Ernest; and

4 WHEREAS, The passing of Burnnette Watson will be felt by  
5 all who knew and loved her, especially her son, Odell Jones;  
6 her daughter and her husband, Annetha Jones and Edwin McKnight;  
7 her seven grandchildren; her sixteen great-grandchildren; and  
8 numerous aunts, nieces, nephews, and close friends; therefore,  
9 be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
12 Burnnette Watson and we extend our sincerest condolences to her  
13 family, friends, and community; and be it further

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