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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Ernest "Ernie" Brown, a member of IUOE Local 399,
3 has been awarded the 2007 Illinois AFLCIO's Robert G. Gibson
4 Award for outstanding service to his union and his community;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Ernie Brown was selected from a list of many
7 nominees from around the State; the annual Labor award is named
8 for the Illinois AFL-CIO's first Director of Community
9 Services, Robert G. Gibson, who went on to become the president
10 of the State Federation and who was committed to community
11 service throughout his entire 32-year association with the
12 organization; Mr. Gibson encouraged, even insisted that union
13 leaders and members work in their communities to help improve
14 the lives of other working families who might be struggling
15 financially and emotionally; and

16 WHEREAS, Ernie Brown has been employed by the Metropolitan
17 Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) for twenty-four years; he
18 is a twenty-two year member of the International Union of
19 Operating Engineers, Local 399, and currently serves as the
20 union's auditor; and

21 WHEREAS, Ernie Brown started his career at MPEA as a
22 housekeeper and worked his way up to become chief engineer of

1 MPEA's North Building and a spokesperson for his union; he
2 supervises a team of engineers that ensures that all HVAC
3 (heating and cooling) equipment is operating properly and that
4 all exhibitors passing through the doors of the MPEA are happy
5 with the facility and the service his team provides; and

6 WHEREAS, Outside of work, Ernie Brown has been the pastor
7 for St. Matthew Baptist Church in Chicago for over nine years;
8 the church serves over 150 parishioners; he has also served as
9 chairman of the church's Deacon Board and as chairman of the
10 Trustee Board; Ernie Brown has a Bachelor's Degree in Theology
11 and is currently working towards his Master's Degree in
12 Divinity at Trinity University in Deerfield; and

13 WHEREAS, Most of Ernie Brown's spare time is spent at the
14 church, counseling parishioners and teaching the Bible; and

15 WHEREAS, Candidates for the Robert G. Gibson Award are
16 nominated by their Local union and their Central Labor Council;
17 Ernie Brown was nominated by the Chicago Federation of Labor
18 and International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 399;
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
22 congratulate Ernest "Ernie" Brown on his work with the

1 Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority and as pastor of
2 Saint Matthew Baptist Church in Chicago and wish him the best
3 in his future endeavors; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to Ernest "Ernie" Brown as a symbol of our respect
6 and admiration.