



SR0538

LRB095 19663 KXB 46010 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Gwindelle Wilson Ponder of Chicago, who passed away on January 30, 2008; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Gwindelle Wilson Ponder proudly celebrated her 80th birthday at the Congregational Church of Park Manor in June 2007 with more than 200 fellow church members, former colleagues, sorors, friends, neighbors, and family; she was the daughter of the late Reverend Dennis N. and Mrs. (Flossie Farmer) Wilson; and

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WHEREAS, She grew up in Charleston, South Carolina, where she graduated from Avery Institute in 1944; she received a B.A. in mathematics from Fisk University in 1948, an M.A. in mathematics from Columbia University in New York in 1951, and a Ph.D. in mathematics/education from Heed University in Broward County, Florida in 1978; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Ponder taught mathematics in the Chicago Public School system for 16 years, 11 of which were at Wendell Phillips High School; she was subsequently a mathematics professor at Kennedy-King College for 19 years; she achieved the rank of professor in 1985 and had bestowed upon her the Distinguished Professorship Award in 1988-89; and

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1           WHEREAS, Some of her noteworthy accomplishments at  
2 Kennedy-King include serving on the Faculty Council Committee,  
3 Rank Committee, Registration and Recruitment Committee,  
4 Faculty Evaluation Committee, Mentor Advisor for Retention  
5 Committee, and Convocation Committee; she coordinated the  
6 mathematics laboratory, tutored students, and co-chaired the  
7 Welch Memorial Mathematics Competition; she frequently  
8 arranged for speakers in her classes to share their  
9 professional experiences and to supplement the students'  
10 intellectual and motivational enrichment; and

11           WHEREAS, Dr. Ponder served on the Stewardship Council, the  
12 June Circle, and the Music Committee of The Congregational  
13 Church of Park Manor, and she was a judge for the Chicago  
14 Public Schools Academic Olympics; she chaired the Ninth Annual  
15 Tea of the Women's Auxiliary Board of Provident Hospital, and  
16 she raised the largest-ever amount of funds for the hospital at  
17 a single event; she was the Vice President of the West  
18 Chesterfield Garden Club, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha  
19 Sorority, Theta Omega Chapter, a member of the Vernon Park  
20 Community Council, a member of the Women's Board of DuSable  
21 Museum of African-American History, the Vice President of the  
22 Chicago Area Fisk University Alumni Association, and a member  
23 of the American Rose Art and Charity Club; and

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Ponder served as a community representative  
2 for the first Local School Council at Harlan Community Academy;  
3 she was an outstanding cook and hostess, an accomplished  
4 seamstress, a competitive bridge player, an avid world  
5 traveler, an African-American fine art collector, and one of  
6 the best dressed-women in Chicago; and

7           WHEREAS, Dr. Gwindelle Wilson Ponder is survived by her two  
8 sons, Dr. Alvin F. Ponder III and Mr. Darryl D. Ponder; her  
9 daughter, Anita J. Ponder, Esq.; her grandson, Mr. Brian  
10 Ponder; her three sisters-in-law, Dr. Mildred Ponder Stennis,  
11 Ms. Ann Wilson, and Ms. Gladys Wilson; her nieces and nephews,  
12 the Honorable Denise Wilson-Taylor, Dr. Dennis Norman Wilson  
13 (Marva), Mr. Decatur Ward Wilson II (Cheryl), Mr. Dexter Norman  
14 Wilson (Renee), and Dr. Lynette Wilson-Phillips (Jonathan);  
15 her grandnieces and grandnephews; her mother's adopted  
16 granddaughter, Ms. Jamesetta Boyd Nichols (Raymond); and  
17 numerous other relatives and friends; therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
20 her family and friends, the passing of Dr. Gwindelle Wilson  
21 Ponder; and be it further

22           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
23 presented to the family of Dr. Gwindelle Wilson Ponder as an

1 expression of our sincere sympathy.