



SR0911

LRB095 22945 KXB 53393 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Percy Baker Jr. of Peoria, who passed away on October 23, 2008; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Percy Baker Jr. was born March 26, 1950, in Iverness, Mississippi, to Percy Sr. and Ethel Wilson Baker; Percy was a 1968 graduate of Manual High School, where he sang with the mixed chorus and participated on the men's basketball team; he also attended Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa; he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology in 1972 from Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, where he played basketball for the Simpson Redmen; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

WHEREAS, Percy enjoyed cooking, which was cultivated by his first job as a teen with Walkers Catering Service; he later worked for the Peoria Courthouse as a probation officer, and for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, working with at-risk youth and wards of the State; over a period of 10 years, he was donating service hours to George Washington Carver Community Center; he was later appointed executive director of the center and served in that capacity for 13 years; and

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

WHEREAS, He initiated the following programs: Toy Shoe

1 Drive, Bidy Basketball, Carver Senior Club, After-School  
2 Program, Summer Camp, Head Start Program, Cocaine Anonymous,  
3 Turbo Kick, IRS Tax Counseling Project, and the Kings of  
4 Court;his total service to Carver accumulated 32 years; his  
5 work as an advocate, volunteer, and going into the community,  
6 led to his appointment as the upcoming volunteer chapter  
7 director for the African-American Task Force for the Gift of  
8 Hope; and

9 WHEREAS, Percy was a member of Heavens View Christian  
10 Fellowship Church, where he sang with the Men of Vision; he  
11 possessed a deep devotion to the public and was active in the  
12 community, serving on many committees; Mr. Baker was a past  
13 president and current board member of the AmerenCILCO Customer  
14 Advisory Council; he served on the council for 13 years; he  
15 also served on the Senior Citizens Commission for three years  
16 and participated on the ICC Minority Recruitment & Retention  
17 Committee; and

18 WHEREAS, Percy dedicated his life to helping others and was  
19 recognized by the many awards and honors he was given,  
20 including the 2008 Illinois Central College Role Model Award,  
21 the 2008 National Association of Social Workers Public Citizen  
22 of the Year Award, the 2007 Community Outreach Award, the 2007  
23 Peoria Branch NAACP Civil Rights Award, the 2004 Wilson Lodge  
24 #24 Men of Vision Leadership Award, the 2002 George Washington

1 Carver Community Center Appreciation Award, the 2001 Martin  
2 Luther King Jr. Honoree Award for Continued Community Service,  
3 the 2001 Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Award for Community  
4 Service, the 2000 DCFS One Church, One Child Award for  
5 Outstanding Service to Inner City Youth, the 1999 Sigma Gamma  
6 Rho Image Award for Building a Better Community, the 1988 JC  
7 Penny Golden Rule Award for Exceptional Volunteer Service, and  
8 the 1997 Unshackled Annual Impact Award; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1995, he was inducted into the Afro Hall of  
10 Fame Museum; Percy enjoyed coaching youth at Father Sweeney  
11 School, assisting with the Gus Macker tournament, and lending  
12 his talents as an emcee to the River City Soul Fest and the  
13 Gospel Jubilee; and

14 WHEREAS, As a speaker in the school system, he was always  
15 willing and available to speak to Peoria's youth to encourage  
16 them to stay on the right path; Percy created and was  
17 commentator of the B Word, a talk radio program which dealt  
18 with current issues affecting the African-American community  
19 in Peoria; he became an advocate of organ donation, taking  
20 speaking engagements to stress its importance to area youth and  
21 the African-American community; and his legacy will live on as  
22 bone marrow and other organs have been donated to save the  
23 lives of others; and

1           WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his mother; one  
2 brother, Lawrence; and one sister, Lela; and

3           WHEREAS, Percy Baker Jr. leaves to cherish his memory his  
4 father, Percy Baker Sr.; his fiancée, Denise Parker; his two  
5 sons, Lawrence Luse Baker and Desmond Baker; his three sisters,  
6 Mattie Baker, Mary Ann Baker, and Mildred Smith; his brother,  
7 David Baker; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces,  
8 nephews, family members, and friends; therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
11 his family and friends, the passing of Percy Baker Jr.; and be  
12 it further

13           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to the family of Percy Baker Jr. as a symbol of our  
15 sincere sympathy.