



HR1449

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Bishop
4 Arthur M. Brazier of Chicago, who passed away on October 22,
5 2010; and

6 WHEREAS, He was born in Hyde Park, was forced out of high
7 school by the Depression, and worked in a laundry until he was
8 drafted into the United States Army in 1942, where he earned a
9 staff sergeant's stripes serving in a trucking company in India
10 and Burma; after the war, he took a high school correspondence
11 course and became a minister in 1951 while working as a letter
12 carrier; he graduated from the Moody Bible Institute in 1956
13 after 6 years of night school; and

14 WHEREAS, He was the founding president of The Woodlawn
15 Organization and went from picketing Mayor Richard J. Daley to
16 being appointed by Mayor Daley's son to sit on the board of the
17 Public Building Commission; and

18 WHEREAS, Pastor Emeritus of the Apostolic Church of God, he
19 became a Bishop in the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World,
20 helped bring the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. to Chicago in
21 1966, and was a friend and onetime tennis partner of President
22 Obama; and

1 WHEREAS, In the 1960s, he started working with community
2 organizer Saul Alinsky and helped found The Woodlawn
3 Organization to battle slumlords and the University of
4 Chicago's efforts to displace Blacks south of 61st Street;
5 Bishop Brazier also helped organize a boycott of Chicago Public
6 Schools to protest the concentration of Black students in
7 mobile classrooms; Bishop Brazier joined forces with Johnson
8 Publishing Company founder John H. Johnson, Chicago Urban
9 League president Edwin C. "Bill" Berry, and other prominent
10 leaders to unite Chicagoans around the fight for civic and
11 economic equality; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1969, Bishop Brazier went to work for a
13 national group, Citizens Crusade Against Poverty, and a year
14 later, resigned from The Woodlawn Organization; working for
15 Citizens Crusade while based in Chicago, he consulted with
16 community groups across the country on housing and commercial
17 redevelopment, remaining active in the Woodlawn community; and

18 WHEREAS, Bishop Brazier was founder of the Woodlawn
19 Preservation and Investment Corporation, which acquired city
20 property at little cost, building low and mixed-income housing;
21 he was also chairman of the Fund for Community Development, and
22 fought to tear down the dilapidated and unused elevated
23 structure that then stretched along 63rd Street from Cottage

1 Grove to Dorchester; after it's demolition, he built a new
2 church complex at 63rd and Dorchester, which many of his
3 congregants call the "Miracle on 63rd"; he retired from the
4 church two years ago; and

5 WHEREAS, Bishop Arthur M. Brazier is survived by his wife,
6 Esther Isabelle Brazier; his son, Reverend Byron T. Brazier;
7 his daughters, Lola Hillman, Janice Dortch, and Rosalyn
8 Shepherd; his 7 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, and
9 his godson, Tyrone Stoudemire; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
11 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
12 mourn, along with his family, friends, and congregation, the
13 passing of Bishop Arthur M. Brazier; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the family of Bishop Arthur M. Brazier as a symbol
16 of our sincere sympathy.