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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 Jurisdictional Bishop W.L. Porter of Memphis, Tennessee, who passed away on April 11, 2009; and

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WHEREAS, Bishop Porter is the founder of the Greater Community Temple Church of God in Christ (COGIC) in Memphis, which he began 37 years ago; in 1981, he organized the Central Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Tennessee Jurisdiction Church Of God In Christ; and

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WHEREAS, Central has grown to be the largest COGIC Jurisdiction in the state of Tennessee; the geographic reach of churches in this fellowship spans from Memphis to Chattanooga with Jurisdictional Headquarters located in Jackson, Tennessee; and

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WHEREAS, Bishop W. L. Porter had been a tremendous force throughout COGIC and had served in several capacities; he worked very closely with Bishop C. H. Mason, Founder of the Church Of God In Christ, and other national leaders; he brought meaningful structure to the organization and significant innovation to COGIC operations over the past fifty years; and he coordinated COGIC's largest convention, The Holy Convocation for over 30 years; and

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1 WHEREAS, Bishop Porter was responsible for transitioning
2 The Holy Convention from Mason Temple to the Mid-South
3 Coliseum, then to The Cook Convention Center and The Pyramid in
4 Memphis; he also served as Director of COGIC Housing for over
5 30 years; and he created and organized COGIC Courtesy Cars; and

6 WHEREAS, Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake and The General
7 Board announced that Superintendent Brandon B. Porter will
8 succeed his father as Jurisdictional Bishop of Central
9 Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Tennessee at an installation
10 service to be held during the Holy Convocation of the Church Of
11 God In Christ in November of 2009; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
14 his family, friends, and church family, the passing of Bishop
15 W. L. Porter; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Bishop W.L. Porter as a symbol of
18 our sincere sympathy.