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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 Mattie Blasingame-Townsend, who passed away on February 12, 2010; and

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WHEREAS, Mattie Blasingame-Townsend was born on August 7, 1934, in Roberta, Georgia; her parents were Carrie Lee Reeves-Preston and Arthur Reeves Jr.; and

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WHEREAS, Mattie Blasingame-Townsend attended Reeves Public School; after finishing school, she married the late Charles West Blasingame in 1950; she moved from Roberta, Georgia to Chicago in 1955 with their 3 small children; and

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WHEREAS, Mattie Blasingame-Townsend served God faithfully throughout her life and committed herself to constant Christian growth; she accepted Christ as her personal Savior at the Olive Grove Baptist Church in Roberta, Georgia; after moving to Chicago, she joined the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, where she served on the usher board; she later moved to the South Side of Chicago and joined the Evangelical Baptist Church, where she was a member of the choir; after several years at the Evangelical Baptist Church, she joined the Pleasant Gift Missionary Baptist Church, where she was a member for over 20 years and served on the usher board, nurse's board, and the

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1 missionary society; she then moved to the Emanuel Baptist  
2 Church, where she was a member of the Pauline Hale Mission  
3 Group, Sunday School class 85, A Golden Ager, and the August  
4 Circle; she remained at the Emanuel Baptist Church until her  
5 passing; and

6 WHEREAS, Mattie Blasingame-Townsend was employed for many  
7 years at various companies, including RR Donnelley as a machine  
8 operator, Leaders Laundry, Schultz Bakeries, and Ashland  
9 Products; she was well known at her jobs as an exceptional  
10 employee; and

11 WHEREAS, Mattie Blasingame-Townsend enjoyed music,  
12 cooking, and gardening; her favorite moments were to gather  
13 with family and friends for good food, fun, and laughter; and

14 WHEREAS, Mattie Blasingame-Townsend was preceded in death  
15 by Lizzie "Mama Lizzie" Jordan; and

16 WHEREAS, Mattie Blasingame-Townsend is survived by her  
17 devoted and loving husband, Wilbur Townsend; her children,  
18 Mable (Milton), Zachary (Felicia), Michael (Karlet), Anita  
19 (Eddie), Dilbert, Trina/Charles, and Elonda; her  
20 grandchildren, Rhonda, Crystal Regina, Ronnie, Monique,  
21 DaQuamj, Tyrell, Choloe', Jessica, Michael, Chie'ta, William,  
22 and Imepomaka (Ime); her great-grandchildren, Jordyn, Marquis,

1 Michael, and Landen; her sisters, Annette Blasingame and Lilly  
2 Young; her brothers, Henry Reeves and Amos Reeves; and her many  
3 nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles, and friends; and

4 WHEREAS, Mattie Blasingame-Townsend will be remembered by  
5 all who knew and loved her as a funny, kind, and compassionate  
6 wife, mother, and friend; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
9 her family and friends, the passing of Mattie  
10 Blasingame-Townsend; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 presented to the family of Mattie Blasingame-Townsend as an  
13 expression of our sympathy.