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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are deeply  
3 saddened to learn of the death of our friend and fellow  
4 legislator, State Representative Eddie P. Washington of  
5 Waukegan and Lake County, who passed away on June 5, 2010; and

6           WHEREAS, Eddie Washington was born in St. Louis, Missouri  
7 on June 8, 1953; he grew up in East St. Louis, taking great  
8 pride and inspiration in the number of East St. Louisans who  
9 made major contributions to American arts, letters, science,  
10 sports, and civic life; he moved to Waukegan in 1985 and  
11 quickly became known as a passionate advocate for equal rights  
12 and for helping marginalized groups gain empowerment through  
13 the political process; and

14           WHEREAS, He was educated in the public schools of East St.  
15 Louis and received a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois  
16 University at Edwardsville and East St. Louis, majoring in  
17 political science and journalism; he was also a graduate of the  
18 College of Lake County; and

19           WHEREAS, He was a trailblazer for African Americans across  
20 Illinois and in Lake County; a plaintiff in a federal court  
21 case, Washington vs. Walker (1975), he was subsequently  
22 credited with breaking down institutional barriers that had

1 kept blacks, Latinos, and women from gainful employment as  
2 Illinois State Police officers; he began his long road of  
3 public service in 1986 as a precinct committeeman; he started  
4 the first African American Police League of Waukegan and North  
5 Chicago, became the first African American to be elected  
6 Trustee of the North Shore Sanitary District, and the first to  
7 serve as Chairman of the Waukegan Democratic Organization; in  
8 2002, he became the first African American State legislator  
9 elected from Lake County and was re-elected three times; and he  
10 was a member of the Legislative Black Caucus; and

11 WHEREAS, He spent decades working with community  
12 organizations in the Metro East and Northeastern Illinois, even  
13 founding his own activist group, P.O.W.E.R. (People Organized  
14 Working for Equal Respect); he collaborated closely with the  
15 Lake County NAACP to improve the quality of life for local  
16 residents; he was a stalwart ally of the John Howard  
17 Association and supported its efforts to provide more humane  
18 living conditions for the incarcerated and to equip them with  
19 skills needed to become contributing members of society after  
20 their release; and

21 WHEREAS, He served as the Director of Employment and  
22 Economic Development for the Lake County Urban League,  
23 solidifying his commitment to the cause of prosperity through  
24 job creation; he was an active voice to encourage new

1 businesses to open in North Chicago and Waukegan, particularly  
2 in the Tenth Street Corridor; he promoted the development of  
3 green jobs and was outspoken on the need for Illinois to become  
4 a leader in renewable energy; and

5 WHEREAS, He was a deeply religious man; he was baptized and  
6 joined the Straightway Baptist Church under the leadership of  
7 Reverend Toliver and was called later in life to the Nation of  
8 Islam through the guidance of Minister Louis Farrakhan; and

9 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his father, Edward E.  
10 Washington, Sr.; and his brother, David C. Washington; and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Eddie Washington is survived by  
12 his wife, Flor D'Luis Washington; his three sons, Albert Aziz  
13 (Sandreika) Moore, Malik (Mikell) Moore, and Elias Washington;  
14 his four daughters, Tikisha (Lawrence) Johnson, Kieanda Moore,  
15 Asiah Rose Washington, and Raquela Washington; his mother, Rose  
16 Washington; his two brothers, Edward E. Washington, Jr. and  
17 Kevin D. Washington; his 10 grandchildren; as well as many  
18 aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends; and his passing will be  
19 felt by his constituents in the 60th House District; therefore,  
20 be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with

1 his friends, family, and constituents, the passing of State  
2 Representative Eddie P. Washington; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to the family of State Representative Eddie  
5 Washington as a symbol of our sincere sympathy.