



HR0915

LRB097 21000 KXB 68288 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Reverend
4 Addie Wyatt, who passed away on March 28, 2012; and

5 WHEREAS, She married the late Reverend Dr. Claude Wyatt on
6 May 12, 1940; they were married for 69 years; during that time,
7 they founded and co-pastored the Vernon Park Church of God in
8 Chicago and had 2 sons, Claude S. Wyatt and Renaldo Wyatt; and

9 WHEREAS, She was born on March 28, 1924 in Brookhaven,
10 Mississippi to Ambrose and Maggie Cameron and was a personal
11 friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; she came to Chicago in
12 1930, when she was 6 years old, and when her mother died, she
13 raised her siblings; and

14 WHEREAS, She tried out for a typist job but was told she
15 failed the test, so she began working at a meat packing company
16 in 1941, where she worked until 1953; once there, she was
17 elected vice president of the United Packinghouse Workers of
18 America Local 56; she was the first African-American to hold
19 such a high labor union position; she went on to become the
20 director of the Women's Affairs and Human Rights Departments of
21 the Amalgamated Meat Cutters; and

1 WHEREAS, In the 1960s, Eleanor Roosevelt honored her
2 leadership skills by appointing her to a position on the
3 Protective Labor Legislation Committee of the United States
4 Commission on the Status of Women; in the 1970s, she held a
5 powerful position in the United Food and Commercial Workers
6 International Union, and in 1974, she founded the Coalition of
7 Labor Union Women; in 1976, she became the international vice
8 president of the United Food and Commercial Workers; and

9 WHEREAS, She and her husband always took time to give back
10 to the community, especially with their civil rights work; she
11 was ordained in 1955 as a Church of God minister; her husband
12 was also ordained in the same faith; together they worked with
13 Dr. King, including at the March on Washington, the march from
14 Selma to Montgomery, and at other civil rights events; and

15 WHEREAS, Reverend Wyatt was a founder and board member of
16 Operation Breadbasket; she also worked very closely with the
17 Southern Christian Leadership Conference as an advisor; she and
18 her husband founded the Wyatt Choral Ensemble in 1944; and

19 WHEREAS, Reverend Wyatt is survived by her son, Claude, and
20 numerous grandchildren; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
22 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we mourn, along with her family and friends, the passing of
2 Reverend Addie Wyatt; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the family of Reverend Addie Wyatt as a symbol of
5 our sincere sympathy.