



HR1195

LRB097 22486 GRL 71246 r

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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 James M.
4 Bailey Sr. of Alton, who passed away on August 10, 2012; and

5 WHEREAS, James Bailey Sr. was born on May 5, 1915, in
6 Trenton, Tennessee; his family later moved to St. Louis, where
7 he graduated from Vashon High School; he subsequently earned
8 his bachelor's degree in education from Lincoln University in
9 1939 and his master's degree in education from the University
10 of Illinois-Champaign in 1948; and

11 WHEREAS, After college, James Bailey Sr. went to Alton to
12 work as a teacher and basketball coach at Lovejoy School; he
13 later became principal at Central Junior High School and then
14 assistant principal at Alton Senior High School; he was also
15 the first black administrative assistant to the superintendent
16 in the district; and

17 WHEREAS, James Bailey Sr. was the first black citizen to be
18 elected to the Alton City Council and the first to be named as
19 comptroller for the City of Alton; and

20 WHEREAS, James Bailey Sr. was instrumental in the creation
21 of numerous local organizations that still exist today,

1 including the Elijah P. Lovejoy Memorial Society and the
2 Madison County Urban League; and

3 WHEREAS, James Bailey Sr. was the recipient of numerous
4 awards and honors, including the Alton Community Citizens
5 Award, the Lovejoy Human Rights Award, and the NAACP's
6 Outstanding Citizen Award; in September of 2011, he was honored
7 by the Ministry of Greater St. James Baptist Church as its
8 fifth distinguished elder; the date of September 25 was
9 designated "James M. Bailey Day in the City of Alton" by Mayor
10 Tom Hoechst and the library at the new Alton High School was
11 named the James M. Bailey Library in November 2006 in honor of
12 his great work in the city; and

13 WHEREAS, James Bailey Sr. and his loving wife of 74 years,
14 the former Mary Louise Simmons, had 2 sons, the Honorable Duane
15 Bailey and Dr. James M. Bailey Jr.; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of
19 James M. Bailey Sr.; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of James Bailey Sr. as an expression of
22 our sympathy.