



HR1341

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to honor our esteemed former
4 colleague, State Representative Marlow Colvin, for his more
5 than 10 years as a member of the Illinois General Assembly, and
6 we thank him for dedicating his life to serving the people of
7 Chicago and Illinois; and

8 WHEREAS, Rep. Colvin was born in March 1964 in Chicago's
9 Chatham-Avalon Park neighborhood; his father was a union
10 carpenter and box factory worker and his mother was a hotel
11 elevator operator, and they both taught him the importance of
12 hard work, family, and community; and

13 WHEREAS, Rep. Colvin learned at an early age from the many
14 African-American leaders who came from the Chatham-Avalon Park
15 neighborhood, including his mentor the late John Stroger, Sr.,
16 that a community is built on hard work, sacrifice, and giving
17 back; as a young man, Rep. Colvin worked to encourage other
18 young Americans to become active in their government, serving
19 as chairman of the Young Democrats of Cook County and as a
20 board member of the Young Democrats of Illinois and the Young
21 Democrats of America; Rep. Colvin has been an active member of
22 the 8th Ward Regular Democratic Organization for over 20 years;
23 and

1 WHEREAS, Rep. Colvin attended St. Felicitas Elementary
2 School, graduated from St. Willibrord Catholic High School, and
3 received a degree in political science from Chicago State
4 University; and

5 WHEREAS, After graduating college and prior to serving as
6 State representative, Rep. Colvin worked as an administrator
7 with the Office of the Cook County Assessor; as Manager of
8 External Review, he was in charge of research, development, and
9 training initiatives for the Industrial-Commercial Valuations
10 division of the assessor's office; and

11 WHEREAS, Upon becoming State representative, Rep. Colvin
12 was soon recognized as one of the House's most thoughtful and
13 compassionate leaders, a member of a new generation of young
14 African Americans that included former Illinois State Senator
15 Barack Obama; Rep. Colvin was chosen by his colleagues to chair
16 the House Legislative Black Caucus from 2003 to 2008, a role he
17 used to bridge generational gaps and empower other young
18 African Americans to succeed within the civic framework of our
19 society; and

20 WHEREAS, As a State legislator, Rep. Colvin focused on job
21 creation, education, and consumer protection, and viewed his
22 role as chairman of the House Consumer Protection Committee as

1 a way to help low-income families and the working poor afford
2 to keep the lights and heat on in their homes, and he worked to
3 protect Illinois families from predatory lending and housing
4 discrimination; and

5 WHEREAS, Rep. Colvin was a strong advocate for
6 strengthening State incentive programs that recognize talented
7 African-American students, especially in the fields of
8 science, technology, engineering, and math, to keep them from
9 being recruited to other states; he was a vocal proponent of
10 investing in our students as a way to invest in our own
11 communities; and

12 WHEREAS, Throughout his career as State representative,
13 Rep. Colvin served on more than 25 House committees, including
14 committees on environment and energy, labor, education, and
15 consumer protection, and chaired the House Majority
16 Conference; and

17 WHEREAS, During his work on energy issues, Rep. Colvin
18 became a strong advocate for advanced energy initiatives,
19 recognizing that energy independence and job creation go
20 hand-in-hand; he spearheaded the approval of a coal-to-natural
21 gas power plant on Chicago's southeast side to provide jobs and
22 economic development for his district; and

1 WHEREAS, Rep. Colvin and his wife Carmen have always found
2 time to volunteer in their community; he has coached little
3 league baseball and youth basketball, been an active member of
4 the Southeast Chicago chapter of the Kiwanis Club, a Jackson
5 Park Hospital Foundation board member, and a member of the
6 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; and

7 WHEREAS, Though Rep. Colvin has retired as an elected
8 official, he will always be remembered as a compassionate but
9 firm leader, an inspiration to a new generation of
10 African-American leaders who continue to live, work, and
11 volunteer in the communities in which they were raised;
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we thank State Representative Marlow Colvin for his service to
16 his community and State, and wish him continued success in all
17 his future endeavors; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to Rep. Colvin as an expression of our respect and
20 gratitude.