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LRB097 11672 KXB 54699 r

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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 Dr. Rufus Starks of Centreville, who passed away on March 11, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, He was born January 2, 1915, in Benton County, Mississippi; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Starks was the recipient of numerous honors, awards, and commendations for his hard work and service to the community; he received accolades from the NAACP, Phi Delta Kappa, the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., the East St. Louis Teacher's Union Local 1220, and the American Federation of Teachers; his Masonic honors included: serving as the 28th most worshipful grand master of Prince Hall Masons State of Illinois and its Jurisdiction 1985-1986 and as a Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the United Supreme Council A.A.S.R.P.H.A.; and

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WHEREAS, In 1955, he was a charter member of the East St. Louis Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.; he had served as a Trustee of Wiley College, Police Commissioner for the City of Centreville, Chaplain of the St. Clair County Jail, a member of Ministers United Against Human Suffering, as well as many other positions of service; and

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1 WHEREAS, He was a junior high school teacher, an assistant
2 and head football coach, assistant principal and principal at
3 the junior high school level, assistant high school principal,
4 assistant superintendent of schools, and superintendent of
5 schools for East St. Louis School District 189; he also served
6 as the East St. Louis Park District Superintendent; and

7 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his wife, Thelma, nee
8 Wren, Starks, with whom he shared 49 years of marriage; his
9 parents, Oliver and Willie, nee Williams, Starks Jr.; his
10 brother, Nathan Starks; and his son, Oliver Starks; and

11 WHEREAS, He leaves to mourn his passing his daughters, Ruth
12 J. Starks and Gwendolyn W. Hill; his grandsons, Justin Hill and
13 Broderick Hill Jr.; his godsons, Michael P. Johnson and Melvin
14 Frierson; his goddaughter, Gwendolyn Hoosman-Jones; his
15 special nephew, Cecil (Twanna) Barnett; his cousins, Joyce
16 Gaddis and Barbara Vaughn; his devoted niece and caretaker,
17 Katrina R. Sturdivant; his caretakers, Iola Harrington and
18 Pearl McCorkle; his 6 brothers-in-law; his 7 sisters-in-law;
19 and a host of other relatives and friends; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
22 his family and friends, the passing of Dr. Rufus Starks; and be

1 it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to the family of Dr. Rufus Starks as a symbol of our
4 sincere sympathy.