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1

SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to  
3 learn of the death of Dr. William Eric "Doc" Perkins; and

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WHEREAS, He was born on September 3, 1948, in Chicago; his  
5 parents were Betty L. Mason and Darrell J. Perkins; he was  
6 baptized at St. Finbar Catholic Church and attended St. Dorothy  
7 School and Mendel Catholic High School; and

8

WHEREAS, In 1966, he began attending Northwestern  
9 University in Evanston, where he graduated with honors with a  
10 bachelor's degree in political science in 1970; while in  
11 college, he pledged with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and was a  
12 "founding officer" of the "For Members Only" (FMO)  
13 organization, which spearheaded the Northwestern University  
14 "Takeover" in 1968; he subsequently earned his master's degree  
15 from the University of Rochester and his Ph.D in history from  
16 the City University of New York; and

17

WHEREAS, He educated hundreds of students at a variety of  
18 institutions; he served as a faculty fellow at the W.E.B.  
19 DuBois House at the University of Pennsylvania; he was an  
20 adjunct professor of communications at Hunter College at the  
21 City University of New York; he was an assistant professor with  
22 the African-American Studies department at Temple University;

1 he also served with Educational Testing Service for 13 years;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, He was well known throughout the academic  
4 community in the United States and beyond; he wrote and  
5 lectured on various topics, including slavery, Caribbean  
6 history, urban studies, and American popular culture; his  
7 classes inspired hundreds of students to become rigorous  
8 critical thinkers, ardent political activists, and scholars;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, He edited and contributed to "Droppin' Science:  
11 Critical Essays on Rap Music and Hip Hop Culture", which was  
12 published by Temple University Press in 1996; the book is still  
13 considered a critical text in the field of hip hop scholarship;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, He enjoyed watching sports and was particularly  
16 thrilled and excited when the New Orleans Saints recently won  
17 the Super Bowl; he also enjoyed cooking, photography, and  
18 traveling to various countries of the African Diaspora,  
19 including Cuba, Brazil, Grenada, Aruba, and Jamaica; he  
20 particularly enjoyed learning about and experiencing Creole  
21 culture; and

22 WHEREAS, William Eric "Doc" Perkins is survived by his

1 daughter, Sonya Perkins; his son, Logan Bailey Perkins; his  
2 grandsons, Miles, Charlie, and Julian Perkins; his sister,  
3 Darlene Perkins Tribue; his brothers, Antonio Burketh (Lydia)  
4 and Lance Richards; his nephews, Edward "Kippy" Tribue (Helen)  
5 and Shawn Richards (Miriam); his aunt, Joan Mason; his  
6 confidantes, Harold Mitchell, Maurice, and Numa Martine; his  
7 brothers-in-law, Edward and Randall Tribue; and his many  
8 nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and colleagues; therefore,  
9 be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
12 his family and friends, the passing of Dr. William Eric "Doc"  
13 Perkins; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to the family of Dr. William Eric "Doc" Perkins as an  
16 expression of our sympathy.