



SR0698

LRB097 21006 KXB 68295 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Senate are saddened to learn of  
3 the death of Reverend Addie Wyatt, who passed away on March 28,  
4 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

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

14

15 WHEREAS, She tried out for a typist job but was told she  
16 failed the test, so she began working at a meat packing company  
17 in 1941, where she worked until 1953; once there, she was  
18 elected vice president of the United Packinghouse Workers of  
19 America Local 56; she was the first African-American to hold  
20 such a high labor union position; she went on to become the  
21 director of the Women's Affairs and Human Rights Departments of  
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 SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with

1 her family and friends, the passing of Reverend Addie Wyatt;  
2 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.