



HR0818

LRB098 19863 MST 55081 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 Harvey B.
4 Ricks, who passed away on January 24, 2014; and

5 WHEREAS, Harvey Ricks was born in 1936 in Waukegan to
6 Philander, Sr. and Narvia (nee McKenzie) Ricks; he attended
7 Waukegan Township High School and Lake Forest College, where he
8 played football; he married Helen Gray in 1955; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1958, Harvey Ricks became the first
10 African-American employed at the North Shore Gas Company in
11 Waukegan; later on he was promoted to Supervisory Instructor in
12 Training and transferred to Peoples Gas in Chicago; in 1977, he
13 was named General Supervisor at Distribution-North at Peoples
14 Gas; he retired in 1992; and

15 WHEREAS, Harvey Ricks was active in many civic and social
16 organizations; he was a member of the Education Committee of
17 the Waukegan Area Conference on Race and Religion; he received
18 the Freedom Award in February of 1979 from the Men of Kappa Chi
19 Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. in honor of
20 his involvement in the Whittier School Case during the 1960s;
21 he was a member of the Unicorns Organization, which gave
22 scholarships and provided food, blankets, and clothing to those

1 in need; and

2 WHEREAS, Harvey Ricks enjoyed traveling to Europe, China,
3 Alaska, the Canary Islands, and the Caribbean; he attended the
4 Olympics in 1984 in Los Angeles and in 1996 in Atlanta; he was
5 an avid gardener and enjoyed jigsaw puzzles, bowling, and
6 music, and was self-taught in doing macrame, often providing
7 gifts to family and friends; and

8 WHEREAS, Harvey Ricks was preceded in death by his parents;
9 his brothers, McKenzie Ricks and Dr. Philander Ricks, Jr.; his
10 sister, Valda (Ricks) Whitehead; and his sister-in-law, Sylvia
11 Ricks; and

12 WHEREAS, Harvey Ricks is survived by his wife of 58 years,
13 Helen; his daughters, Valerie Renee Ricks and Dr. Harlene
14 (Fernando) Shipley; his son, Wayne (Stephanie) Ricks; his
15 grandchildren, Ahleo Ricks, Matthew and Rochelle Shipley,
16 Laura Ricks, Wayne II (Melanie) Ricks, and Keyana and Nathan
17 Ricks; his great-grandchildren, Jayden Shipley, Isaiah,
18 Aaliyah, and Mariah Ricks; his brothers-in-law, Bennie, Emery,
19 Elmer, and Ralph Gray; his sister-in-law, Barbara Ricks; his
20 special niece and nephews, Elise James, Dr. Philip Ricks, and
21 Rick Whitehead; his special cousins, Sherman McKenzie, Maxine
22 Allen, and Wilma Faye Lavant; and his special friends, James
23 Epperson and Darryl Bradshaw; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we mourn the passing of Harvey B. Ricks, and extend our sincere
4 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
5 him; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of Harvey Ricks as an expression of our
8 deepest sympathy.