



HR0839

LRB098 19210 MST 54362 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 John W.
4 Rogers, Sr. of Chicago, who passed away on January 21, 2014;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, John Rogers, Sr. was born in 1918 in Knoxville,
7 Tennessee; he graduated from Tilden Technical High School in
8 Chicago and earned his bachelor's degree in education in 1941
9 from what is now Chicago State University; he earned his
10 pilot's license and enlisted in the United States Army Air
11 Forces; and

12 WHEREAS, John Rogers, Sr. was a member of the famed
13 Tuskegee Airmen during World War II; he was part of the 99th
14 Pursuit Squadron and was one of the original 28 airmen to go
15 overseas; he flew 120 missions in Europe and achieved the rank
16 of Captain; he was a part of a group of approximately 300
17 Tuskegee Airmen to be honored with the Congressional Gold
18 Medal, and in January of 2012, he was part of a group that went
19 to the White House as a special guest of President Obama to
20 view the movie "Red Tails", which tells their story; and

21 WHEREAS, Following the war, John Rogers, Sr. attended the
22 University of Chicago Law School on the GI Bill; he married

1 Jewel Stradford in 1946 and graduated law school in 1948;
2 together he and his wife started a law firm; later he joined
3 Earl L. Neal & Associates (now Neal & Leroy) and worked for
4 them from 1974 until 1977; in 1968 he met his future wife,
5 Gwendolyn; the couple dated for 33 years and married in 2001;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, John Rogers, Sr. was appointed an associate judge
8 for Cook County in May of 1977 and eventually assigned to the
9 Juvenile Division; he retired from the bench in 1998; in 2012,
10 the University of Chicago Law School named the school's
11 Director of Admissions office after Mr. Rogers and his first
12 wife; and

13 WHEREAS, John Rogers, Sr. was preceded in death by his
14 parents and by his first wife, Jewel; and

15 WHEREAS, John Rogers, Sr. is survived by his wife,
16 Gwendolyn; his son, John W. Rogers, Jr.; and his granddaughter,
17 Victoria Rogers; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we mourn the passing of John W. Rogers, Sr., and extend our
21 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
22 and loved him; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of John Rogers, Sr. as an expression of
3 our deepest sympathy.