



HR1196

LRB098 21698 MST 60550 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Fancie L. Windham of
4 Chicago on the occasion of her 100th birthday on June 1, 2014;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Fancie Windham (nee Green) arrived in Chicago from
7 Alliceville (Pickens County), Alabama, with 4 small children to
8 reunite with her husband, Matt, Sr. in 1942; and

9 WHEREAS, Fancie Windham first worked as a beautician at
10 Mrs. Parker's Beauty Salon on East 43rd Street; she then worked
11 as a floor attendant at Cat's Millinery Company on South Water
12 Street in downtown Chicago; she started creating hand-made hats
13 for herself, and, due to requests, started selling them to
14 others; she opened her first hat shop on East 43rd Street in
15 1942, operating it until 1968; and

16 WHEREAS, Fancie Windham was a self-taught handmade hat and
17 clothes/accessory designer; she utilized her family members to
18 form a hat modeling troupe; her grandson, Eddie, became her
19 personal hat assistant on stage and at the hat shop; she and
20 her hat models participated in the annual Bud Billiken parade
21 as they rode in a convertible for 35 years; the hat troupe also
22 modeled hats at various church and social events throughout

1 Chicago and surrounding states, including 17 years on the late
2 Isabel Joseph Johnson's Rock of Ages Channel 26 TV show and the
3 Idlewild (MI) Lot Owners' Association annual August week of
4 events finale variety show for 14 years; and

5 WHEREAS, During the mid-1940s, Fancie Windham joined The
6 Dainty Matrons Social Club, an affiliate group of the Chicago
7 Northern District Association (CNDA) of Club Women and Girls,
8 Inc.; she then joined the Myrtle McKenzie Self-Realization
9 Club; and

10 WHEREAS, Fancie Windham has received numerous civic,
11 religious awards, and citations, including the late Mrs. Bertha
12 Clifton's "Designers Hall of Fame" award; she traveled with the
13 Chicago Democratic Women on its 'Route 66' Trip to Washington,
14 D.C. as guests of the late President Lyndon B. Johnson at the
15 White House; and

16 WHEREAS, Fancie Windham is semi-retired and services
17 existing hat customers as the country's oldest-known milliner;
18 she is the oldest living member of the Evening Star Missionary
19 Baptist Church in Chicago; and

20 WHEREAS, Fancie Windham's grandson created the Fancie L.
21 Windham's Millinery/Accessories Scholarship Foundation for
22 aspiring secondary students who desire to pursue a fashion

1 design degree; the CNDA's building fund is one of the
2 foundations's designated benefactors; and

3 WHEREAS, Fancie Windham is one of the legendary CNDA
4 members; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we congratulate Fancie L. Windham of Chicago on her 100th
8 birthday and wish her many more wonderful years; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to Fancie Windham as an expression of our esteem and
12 respect.