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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to
3 learn of the death of Robbie Jean Mangum Sykes; and

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WHEREAS, Robbie Sykes was born on August 29, 1940, in
5 Memphis, Tennessee; her parents were Deacon Robert and Julia
6 Hess Mangum; she married Dr. Reginald Sykes in 1963; and

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8 WHEREAS, Robbie Sykes attended Memphis Public Schools and
9 the famous Booker T. Washington High School; she then earned a
10 full 4-year scholarship to the University of Arkansas at Pine
11 Bluff, where she earned her bachelor's degree in education; she
12 was active in many social and academic clubs on campus and
13 served as one of the soloists in the college's renowned Vesper
14 Choir; she was chosen for Who's Who in American Colleges and
15 Universities and later went on to attend Chicago State
University; and

16

17 WHEREAS, Robbie Sykes began her teaching career in Memphis;
18 she later began a four-decade long teaching career at Betsy
19 Ross Elementary in Chicago; she subsequently taught primary
20 grades at Bryn Mawr School (later Bouchet Math and Science
21 Academy); she retired from Bouchet in 2005 after many years of
22 service; following her retirement, she enjoyed teaching her
grandchildren in the basement of her home; and

1 WHEREAS, Robbie Sykes was a greatly demanded and highly
2 regarded soloist throughout Chicago and Memphis; her
3 wide-ranging repertoire included classical and gospel
4 selections; and

5 WHEREAS, Robbie Sykes was an active and dedicated member of
6 Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, where she served as a
7 trustee, assistant treasurer, and treasurer; she was a member
8 of the Gospel Chorus, the Beautifying Club, Sunday School, and
9 the Pinkie Reid Mission Circle of Senior Mission #2; she was
10 also a member of the Love Ensemble, a non-profit musical group,
11 and participated in numerous civic and community activities;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Robbie Sykes was preceded in death by her
14 siblings, Ernest, Mary Lillie, Vivian Nell, Louis, and James;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Robbie Sykes is survived by her loving husband,
17 Reginald; her children, Regina Sykes-Hawkins (Stephen), Rhonda
18 Sykes-Willis (Gregory) and Reginald Sykes II (Renee); her
19 grandchildren, Robbie, Raven, Imani, Robynn, and Reginald III;
20 her sisters, Julia Ward (Elder Lee Ward) and Verna Jones; her
21 brother-in-law, Larry Sykes; and her many other relatives,
22 friends, neighbors, former students, adopted children, and her

1 beloved W.H.G. Sisters; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
4 her family and friends, the passing of Robbie Jean Mangum
5 Sykes; and be it further

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