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LRB098 11615 MST 43981 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Erma Bridgewater of Champaign; and

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WHEREAS, Erma Bridgewater (nee Scott) was born to Ray and Sarah Scott; she graduated from Champaign High School in 1931 and studied sociology at the University of Illinois, graduating in 1937; she married Cecil Bridgewater in 1941; and

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WHEREAS, After graduating college, Erma Bridgewater was hired as the first co-director of the Douglass Community Center on the University of Illinois campus; she left to raise her children and returned to the position of director from 1955 to 1962; she worked for a time at the Urbana Courier as a proofreader and for the City of Champaign, first in urban renewal and later community development; and

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WHEREAS, Erma Bridgewater received many honors through the years; she was named a "living legend" by Project 500, a group of 500 African Americans who were recruited to attend the University of Illinois 3 decades after she did; Bethel AME Church proclaimed one Sunday as "Mrs. B. Day" and former Champaign Mayor Jerry Schweighart gave her the key to the city; and

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1 WHEREAS, Erma Bridgewater enjoyed jazz and was a member and
2 piano player for Bethel AME Church; as a teenager, she played
3 piano in a teen jazz combo her father had founded; and

4 WHEREAS, Erma Bridgewater was preceded in death by her
5 parents and her husband of 58 years, Cecil; and

6 WHEREAS, Erma Bridgewater is survived by her children, Ron,
7 Cecil, and Cassandra "Cassie"; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
10 Erma Bridgewater, and we extend our sincere condolences to her
11 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Erma Bridgewater as an expression of
15 our deepest sympathy.