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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives and Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of the beloved former Illinois State Representative and State Senator Ethel Skyles Alexander-Taylor, who passed away on September 10, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Ethel Skyles Alexander-Taylor was born on January 16, 1925 in Chicago; she moved with her family to Davenport, Iowa and to Winnepeg, Manitoba, Canada, due to her father's parish assignments; after returning to Chicago, she attended Sherwood Elementary School and Englewood High School; after high school, she married Lawrence Taylor and had a child, Gayla Aniece; and

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WHEREAS, With the help of her father, Ethel Skyles Alexander-Taylor was able to secure a position at the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Criminal Division, Appeal Section; afterwards, she became the first woman to be appointed Assistant Chief Deputy Clerk of the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court in 1973; her tenure at the Circuit Court of Cook County lasted 33 years; she then furthered her education at Wilson and received a degree from Loop (now Harold Washington) College as well as enrolling in an IBM Executive Training Course; and

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1 WHEREAS, Ethel Skyles Alexander-Taylor taught the first
2 training school for Courtroom Minute Clerks in clerical
3 procedures; she served as Ward Committeewoman of the 20th Ward
4 Regular Democratic Organization for 21 years and as precinct
5 Captain of the 20th Ward Regular Democratic Organization for 28
6 years; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1978, Ethel Skyles Alexander-Taylor was
8 elected to the Illinois House of Representatives, where she was
9 known for waving a red handkerchief in the air whenever she
10 wanted to discuss an issue with fellow legislators; in 1986,
11 she was appointed to replace the late Charles Chew in the State
12 Senate, where she remained until her retirement in 1993; while
13 in the legislature, she served as Vice-Chair of the Elections
14 and Reapportionment Committee and co-sponsored a bill that
15 prohibited State agencies from trading with apartheid-era
16 South Africa; she was also a leading advocate for Mayor Harold
17 Washington; and

18 WHEREAS, Ethel Skyles Alexander-Taylor served as a mentor
19 to many legislators and trained them on proper decorum; she
20 also focused on issues that would empower the African-American
21 community, stressed the importance in working with trade
22 unions, emphasized social issues, and underscored the
23 necessity of economic empowerment in the African-American

1 community; and

2 WHEREAS, As a State Representative, Ethel Skyles
3 Alexander-Taylor served on the following committees during the
4 81st to 84th General Assemblies: Appropriations II, Cities &
5 Villages (Vice Chair), Elections (Chair), Energy, Environment,
6 and National Resources, Judiciary II, Revenue, State
7 Government Administration and Regulatory Review, and Urban
8 Redevelopment; as a State Senator, she served on the following
9 committees during the 85th to 87th General Assemblies: Consumer
10 Affairs, Elections & Reapportionment (Vice Chair and Chair),
11 Energy & Environment, Judiciary, Judiciary II, Local
12 Government, and Revenue; and

13 WHEREAS, Ethel Skyles Alexander-Taylor was a sponsor of
14 many major bills that became law, including P.A. 82-627 (1981),
15 which created the Domestic Violence Act; P.A. 82-453 (1981),
16 which amended the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act to
17 penalize making false reports of abuse or neglect and make
18 other changes; P.A. 82-517 (1981), which amended the Criminal
19 Code by imposing stricter penalties for juror harassment; P.A.
20 82-291 (1981), which amended the Criminal Code by imposing
21 stricter penalties for witness interference; P.A. 83-144
22 (1984), which authorized the Department of Public Aid to
23 authorize payments to medical providers for diagnosis and
24 treatment of sickle cell anemia for people qualifying for

1 services under Public Aid Code Section 5-2; P.A. 83-1067
2 (1984), which amended the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal
3 Procedure to repeal existing sex crimes and replace them with
4 criminal sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual assault,
5 criminal sexual abuse, and aggravated criminal sexual abuse;
6 P.A. 83-495 (1983), which amended the Rape Victims Emergency
7 Treatment Act by requiring hospitals to submit plans for
8 providing emergency care to rape victims; P.A. 83-500 (1984),
9 which amended the Rape Victims Emergency Treatment Act to
10 require the City of Chicago and law enforcement to distribute
11 Vitullo rape evidence kits to hospitals; P.A. 83-1406 (1984),
12 which amended the Communicable Disease Act to allow reporting
13 of sexually transmitted diseases in minors under the age of 11
14 in accordance with the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
15 Act; P.A. 86-1168 (1990), which expanded the crime of child
16 pornography to include depiction of children in "lewd
17 exhibitions" of several private bodily areas; P.A. 86-1329
18 (1990), which amended the Code of Civil Procedure to remove
19 provisions that suspended the running of civil statute of
20 limitations periods on prospective plaintiffs while they were
21 in prison; P.A. 87-791 (1991), which imposed a \$100 additional
22 fine on persons convicted of a long list of crimes against the
23 perpetrators' household members, with the proceeds going to the
24 Domestic Violence Shelter and Service Fund; P.A. 87-933 (1992),
25 which amended the Code of Civil Procedure to allow public
26 housing authorities to evict a tenant for seven days based on

1 evidence that the rented premises are being used for selling
2 illegal drugs; P.A. 84-588 (1986), which amended the Election
3 Code to have all election authorities in the State prepare
4 reports of votes cast in their jurisdictions and distribute
5 them to local political parties; P.A. 84-197 (1986), which
6 amended the Minority and Female Business Enterprise Act to
7 require the Enterprise Council to act as clearinghouse for
8 State contracts which minority and female-owned businesses can
9 bid; P.A. 84-659 (1986), which amended the Election Code to
10 require that each electronic voting booth be placed in a way
11 that prevents election judges and poll watchers from observing
12 casting of ballots; P.A. 84-658 (1986), which amended the
13 Election Code to allow a write-in candidate to be nominated and
14 elected without receiving at least as many votes as the
15 required numbers of petition signatures, if the candidate
16 received more votes than any other candidate; P.A. 84-966
17 (1986), which amended the Election Code to allow discovery in
18 one precinct, if there are fewer than four precincts under the
19 jurisdiction of the election authority and within the area
20 where votes may be cast on the petition filed for discovery;
21 and P.A. 86-786 (1989), which amended acts on Cook County
22 courts by reducing the number of associate judges and
23 increasing numbers of circuit and Appellate Court judges; and

24 WHEREAS, Ethel Skyles Alexander-Taylor was President of
25 the First Church of Deliverance 300 Voice Radio and T.V. Adult

1 Choir for over 20 years; she was also a member of Parkway
2 Community House, the NAACP, and the Chicago Urban League; and

3 WHEREAS, Ethel Skyles Alexander-Taylor was preceded in
4 death by her parents, former State Representative Charles M.
5 Skyles and Mildred Skyles; her husband, Lawrence "Larry"
6 "Poppy" Taylor; her siblings, Delores June Daniel, Ruby Elise
7 King, and Charles M. Skyles II; and her nephew, Steven C.
8 Green; and

9 WHEREAS, Ethel Skyles Alexander-Taylor is survived by her
10 nieces and nephews, James E. (Alice) Daniel, Wayne K. King,
11 Shalalia Daniel, Donna Skyles, Rae Lynn (Ernest) Durham, Ruby
12 Turner, and Charles M. (Verne) Skyles III; her stepdaughter,
13 Deidre (Anthony) Aleniyi, and her family, Attorney Bianca Brown
14 and Jovanezer Dikeccha; her stepchildren, Lawrence Jr.,
15 Kiimberling, Enrico, Yolanda, Brandy, Tondelayo, and Mario;
16 her in-laws, Margaret Johnson, Robert Taylor, Lillian
17 (Charles) Wade, Doris Eames, Earlene (Ronnie) Leverette, Earl
18 (Stephenia) Taylor, and Marion and Candice Taylor; her special
19 extended family, Lucille Arden, Samuel Thornton, Connie
20 Tinner, Marian Joyce Randolph, Lauletta (Sweets) Hines,
21 retired United States Senator Carol Moseley Braun, and Billie
22 Paige; and the members of the First Church of Deliverance;
23 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
3 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we, along with her family and
4 friends, mourn the passing of former Illinois State
5 Representative and State Senator Ethel Skyles
6 Alexander-Taylor; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Ethel Skyles Alexander-Taylor as an
9 expression of our sympathy.