



HR0316

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, State Representative Monique D. Davis and the
3 members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened
4 to learn of the death of the Rev. Willie T. Barrow of Chicago;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Rev. Barrow was born in Burton, Texas on December
7 7, 1924 to Nelson and Octava Taplin; she moved to Oregon at the
8 age of 16, where she studied theology, organized a Church of
9 God group, and worked as a welder in a shipyard, where she met
10 Clyde Barrow, a fellow shipyard worker; they married and moved
11 to Chicago in 1945, and her marriage inspired her to write a
12 book, "How to Get Married...and Stay Married."; and

13 WHEREAS, Rev. Barrow organized her first civil rights
14 demonstration when she was 12, protesting the fact that she and
15 her fellow black students had to walk to school in her hometown
16 in Texas while whites could ride the school bus; she went on to
17 conduct sit-ins and boycotts with luminaries of the civil
18 rights movement, including the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
19 and Rosa Parks, and she joined in the 1963 March on Washington
20 and the protests 2 years later in Selma, Alabama; more
21 recently, she voiced concerns over gun violence and dilution of
22 the Voting Rights Act; and

1 WHEREAS, In the early 1970s, Rev. Barrow helped Rev. Jesse
2 Jackson found Operation PUSH and succeeded him as executive
3 director when he sought the Democratic presidential nomination
4 in the 1980s; she later served as chairwoman; and

5 WHEREAS, Rev. Barrow was a champion of civil rights for
6 minorities, women, gay people, and consumers; she opposed the
7 war in Vietnam and apartheid and mentored generations of
8 community organizers, including President Barack Obama; and

9 WHEREAS, Rev. Barrow was preceded in death by her husband
10 of 56 years, Clyde and her son, Keith; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
12 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
13 mourn the passing of the Rev. Willie T. Barrow, and extend our
14 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew
15 and loved her; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Rev. Barrow as an expression of our
18 deepest sympathy.