



HR0565

LRB099 12679 MST 36408 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the passing of Lauranita Taylor Dugas on May 20, 2015; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Lauranita Dugas was born on December 2, 1926 in Chicago to Dorothy and Robert Rochon Taylor, who served as the first African-American chairman of the Chicago Housing Authority and was credited with establishing standards for public housing in Chicago and the nation; she was the granddaughter of the first African-American graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the country's first academically trained African-American architect; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

WHEREAS, Lauranita Dugas graduated from what was then Parker High School in 1944; she subsequently studied at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and met her future husband, Lester J. Dugas, Jr., whom she married in 1949 and shared a lifetime of civic engagement; and

14

15

16

17

18

19

WHEREAS, Lauranita Dugas carried on her family's legacy and work in education for the African-American community at the Head Start Program, the State of Illinois' Institute for Juvenile Research, and the Chicago Child Care Society, where

20

21

22

1 she served as a supervising teacher for 25 years until her
2 retirement; and

3 WHEREAS, Lauranita Dugas served as a Chair of the
4 Jones-Swift Scholarship fund as part of the Chicago
5 Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children;
6 she also served as a charter member of the Working in the
7 Schools program for the Chicago Public Schools; and

8 WHEREAS, Lauranita Dugas was a member of the board of
9 visitors for the University of Wisconsin School for Human
10 Ecology, a founding member of the Museum of Science and
11 Industry's Black Creativity Committee, active with the
12 Leadership Advisory Committee at the Art Institute of Chicago,
13 and the namesake of the Lauranita T. and Lester J. Dugas, Jr.
14 Scholarship at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, through
15 which scholarships are awarded to talented minority students
16 with financial need; and

17 WHEREAS, Lauranita Dugas is remembered for being a teacher
18 who believed early childhood education was the key to success;
19 she was fully committed to seeing the whole child in the
20 context of his or her family and community, and she had the
21 uncanny ability to connect with children and help them feel
22 comfortable with their own abilities; and

1 WHEREAS, Laurantita Dugas was preceded in death by her
2 beloved husband of 50 years, Lester Dugas, Jr.; and

3 WHEREAS, Laurantita Dugas is survived by her 3 children,
4 Gail D. Dugas, Dr. Jeffrey A. Dugas, Sr. (Tina), and Lauren
5 Dugas Glover (Kenneth); her 5 grandchildren, Andrea Dugas
6 Douglas (Christopher), Jeffrey A. Dugas, Jr. (Nakeesha), Evan
7 J. Glover, Jonathan T. Glover, and Taylor J. Dugas; her 3
8 great-grandchildren, Jordan Douglas, Christopher Douglas, Jr.,
9 and Sydney Douglas; her sister, Dr. Barbara Bowman; her 2
10 sisters-in-law, Dolores Scurlock and Carolyn (John) Viera; and
11 many nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, extended family,
12 and countless friends across the United States, Europe, and
13 Africa; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we, along with her family, friends, colleagues, and those whose
17 lives she touched, mourn the passing of Laurantita Dugas; and be
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Laurantita Dugas as an expression of
21 our deepest sympathies and respect.