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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of former
4 Illinois State Representative Shirley Marie Jones of Chicago,
5 who passed away on March 20, 2016; and

6 WHEREAS, Rep. Jones was born in Chicago to Elisha and
7 Bessie Jones on November 9, 1939; she joined Holy Family and
8 St. Sabina parishes; she attended Smyth Elementary School and
9 Cregier and Crane high schools on Chicago's West Side; she
10 later attended George Williams College; and

11 WHEREAS, Rep. Jones' athleticism as a young lady molded her
12 career; she was an exceptional volleyball player, avid golfer,
13 bowler, and a fan of all sports; she was a physical education
14 instructor at several Chicago park locations; she rose through
15 the ranks of the Chicago Park District for a career that lasted
16 nearly 30 years; and

17 WHEREAS, Rep. Jones' political career grew from her
18 precinct work in the powerful "1st Ward", to seven terms in the
19 Illinois General Assembly; she championed legislation for
20 seniors, public aid, and consumer rights; she served on many
21 committees and chaired the Public Utilities Committee; under
22 her leadership, the utility deregulation legislation that

1 revamped Illinois was written; upon retirement, after several
2 unopposed terms as State Representative, she became a lobbyist
3 for Commonwealth Edison until her full retirement; and

4 WHEREAS, Rep. Jones was a member of several clubs and
5 organizations and served on several boards, including the
6 National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the National
7 Organization of Black Elected Women, and the Red Hatters; she
8 also assisted many not-for-profit organizations, including the
9 Cathedral Shelter, the Duncan YMCA, and the Campaign for a Drug
10 Free Westside; and

11 WHEREAS, Rep. Jones was affectionately know as "Aunt
12 Shirley"; she was a member of Apostolic Church of God; her
13 family was the most important thing in her life and she
14 coordinated most of the holiday parties, trips, gatherings, and
15 Bid Whist nights for her family and friends; she also enjoyed
16 trips to Las Vegas; and

17 WHEREAS, Rep. Jones was preceded in death by her siblings,
18 Alberta, Roberta, Earskin, and Allen, and her son, Darryl; and

19 WHEREAS, Rep. Jones is survived by her beloved husband,
20 Harold Neal; her daughter, La Keisha Jones; her three sisters,
21 Gladys (Willie), Irene, and Betty (Leonard); her brother,
22 Phillip; her 7 grandchildren, Darryl, Nick, Nakia, Jarrett,

1 Brittany, Darnesha, and Aiyanna; her two great-grandchildren;
2 her goddaughter, Shonnie; her stepdaughter, Telecia; her
3 sister-in-law, Peggy; her brother-in-law, Lamont; and a host of
4 nieces, nephews, and other relatives; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
7 mourn the passing of former Illinois State Representative
8 Shirley Marie Jones, and extend our sincere condolences to her
9 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Rep. Jones as an expression of our
13 deepest sympathy.