



HR1539

LRB099 24208 MST 51929 r

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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 Joseph W.  
4 Freelon, the first African American mayor of Maywood; and

5           WHEREAS, Joseph Freelon was a Chicago school teacher and  
6 real estate salesman; he was elected mayor of Maywood on April  
7 7, 1981 after defeating newspaper publisher, Ronald Saunders,  
8 by just 23 votes in an eight-person race; the recount, and  
9 other, related legal battles, lasted more than a year after  
10 election; and

11           WHEREAS, Joseph Freelon served two terms as mayor from 1981  
12 to 1989; he won a third term as mayor in the 1993 election; and

13           WHEREAS, Joseph Freelon was active in his community; he  
14 headed up the deacon's board at Second Baptist Church in  
15 Maywood; in 2014, he was appointed to the Maywood fire and  
16 police pension board; and

17           WHEREAS, Joseph Freelon's wife, Gladys, established the  
18 Maywood Village beautification committee; and

19           WHEREAS, Joseph Freelon had two children, Gawana Freelon,  
20 and Joseph Freelon Jr. VFP; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
3 mourn the passing of Joseph W. Freelon, and extend our sincere  
4 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
5 him; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the family of Joseph Freelon as an expression of  
8 our deepest sympathy.