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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The people of the State of Illinois were shocked  
3 to learn of the tragic incident at the Emanuel African  
4 Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina on  
5 June 17, 2015; and

6           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate were deeply  
7 saddened to learn of the 9 victims who were tragically slain  
8 during Bible study at Emanuel AME that day: South Carolina  
9 State Senator Clementa Pinckney, the senior pastor at the  
10 church, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, an assistant pastor,  
11 Tywanza Sanders, Ethel Lance, Susie Jackson, Cynthia Hurd, Myra  
12 Thompson, Daniel Simmons Sr., and DePayne Middleton Doctor; and

13           WHEREAS, Emanuel AME is the oldest African Methodist  
14 Episcopal church in the South and has one of the oldest and  
15 largest black congregations south of Baltimore; and

16           WHEREAS, Our hearts go out to the victims' families,  
17 Emanuel AME's entire congregation, and the communities across  
18 South Carolina that are deeply shaken by these events; and

19           WHEREAS, Our concern reaches further to the need for a  
20 greater national conversation about race relations, equality,  
21 and justice, because we believe that all lives matter;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that, as we mourn together  
4 with the entire State of Illinois for the Emanuel African  
5 Methodist Episcopal Church and South Carolina and reflect on  
6 this unfathomable incident, we designate June 17 as a day of  
7 peace, remembrance, and unity and recognize that recovery and  
8 healing will be a church and community endeavor and that this  
9 is a time during which the entire country should come together  
10 to mend; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 presented to the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church as  
13 an expression of our heartfelt sympathy.