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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Henry English, a beloved citizen, faithful man of God, prominent black philanthropic leader, and civic and community activist, who passed away on March 5, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Henry English was born in West Point, Mississippi on May 27, 1942; and

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WHEREAS, Henry English, as a young adult, moved to Chicago's west side with his family, who came north to explore better opportunities; and

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WHEREAS, Henry English attended Holland elementary school and graduated from Farragut High School and the former Crane Junior College, where he led the triumphant movement to change the name from Crane Junior College to Malcolm X College; he continued pivotal work in this area from 1968 to 1971; after Malcolm X College, he matriculated at Bachelor University in Durham New Hampshire, earning his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1972; he then earned his Master of Public Administration in 1974 from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York; and

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1 WHEREAS, Henry English was a recognized leader in the black
2 liberation movement in Chicago and will be remembered as an
3 important Chicago leader; he was the founder and first
4 President of Chicago City College student government, and
5 eventually a leader in the Black Panther Party; throughout his
6 entire life, he was a key strategic force behind many causes,
7 campaigns, and social and economic justice issues; and

8 WHEREAS, Henry English amassed over 45 years of diversified
9 management, in the health care, education and fund development
10 fields; he rose to become a nationally recognized and respected
11 not-for-profit association executive, as President and CEO of
12 the Black United Fund of Illinois, Inc. (BUFI); founded in 1985
13 to promote black philanthropy, self-help, community, and
14 economic development; BUFI serves as one of his crowning
15 professional achievements; the organization and social
16 movement is committed to the improvement of the quality of life
17 of African Americans through reliance on self-help, mutual aid,
18 and volunteerism at the local community level; a pillar of the
19 community, BUFI also provides grants, technical assistance,
20 and support services to over 700 grassroots organizations and
21 programs statewide that address critical needs of the African
22 American community; and

23 WHEREAS, Henry English spent his entire life answering the
24 clarion call to community service in the African American

1 communities; while many people talk about doing something great
2 during their time on earth, he quickly dispensed with the empty
3 rhetoric and instead delivered results, remaining steadfastly
4 dedicated to creating major political, social, economic, and
5 philanthropic changes in Chicago; and

6 WHEREAS, Henry English was instrumental in The Coalition to
7 Save South Shore Country Club, which helped to transform the
8 once exclusive South Shore Country Club, once scheduled for
9 demolition, into today's South Shore Cultural Center, a public
10 facility and historic south lakefront architectural jewel that
11 provides a range of programs and services for the community; he
12 was also instrumental in the reorganization of South Shore High
13 School into four small schools, and was recently involved in
14 the development of the new South Shore International College
15 Prep High School, lending his leadership and expertise to
16 promote high quality academic environments of our youth; and

17 WHEREAS, Henry English was a vital, dynamic, yet
18 soft-spoken freedom-fighter, who was never boring and people
19 who underestimated him often discovered that they made a big
20 mistake; he was a social justice advocate, and a perpetually
21 progressively active and respectable citizen who resided in his
22 beloved South Shore community for over 40 years: he was a loyal
23 and faithful member of Christ Bible Church; and

1 WHEREAS, Henry English was an affectionate and supportive
2 man, a true friend indeed, who gave selflessly of his time and
3 energy to family members, friends, and neighbors alike; he
4 maintained an incredible and international network of close
5 friends and professional associates, who felt privileged to
6 know him; always nurturing the next generation of leaders, he
7 was especially proud of a forever growing group
8 'great-god-sons', whom he mentored; he will be sorely missed,
9 but the memory of his character, intelligence, and compassion
10 will live on in all those who knew and worked alongside,
11 respected and loved him; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that mourn the passing of
14 Henry English and extend our sincere condolences to his family
15 and extended family, friends, neighbors, and activists across
16 Illinois; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 prepared and presented to the family of Henry English as an
19 expression of our deepest sympathy.