



HR0452

LRB104 15210 LAW 28357 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Antoine Lamar Merrick of Chicago Heights, who passed away on July 31, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Antoine Merrick was born in Mobile, Alabama on October 25, 1982; he was raised in Tampa, Florida; he graduated from Bloomingdale High School in Valrico, Florida, where he played football; he attended Florida A&M University; he married his wife, Kelli, in 2005; together, they built a life grounded in laughter, family, and love; and

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WHEREAS, Antoine Merrick began working with PepsiCo, becoming affectionately known as "the Pepsi man" in the community over the course of his eight-year career; after earning his Commercial Driver's License (CDL), he transitioned into a career in trucking, during which he loved taking his girls on the road with him; and

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WHEREAS, Antoine Merrick discovered coaching to be his life's work, first coaching at St. Agnes Catholic School in 2014; he coached girls and boys basketball and girls volleyball; he eventually took his passion to the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) circuit, through which he coached the

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1 Lady MeanStreets and the Midwest Elite; he ultimately created
2 a basketball program of his own, the Power Moves Elite (PME),
3 home of the PME Pumas; and

4 WHEREAS, Antoine Merrick's coaching career led him to
5 Marian Catholic High School, where he helped guide the Lady
6 Spartans for years, and finally to Rich Township High School,
7 where he served as head assistant coach of the girls varsity
8 basketball team and head coach of the girls flag football
9 team; over the course of his career, he became known for
10 believing in his players as well as protecting them, pushing
11 them, and celebrating their achievements; and

12 WHEREAS, Antoine Merrick, who leaves behind a legacy
13 spanning thousands of lives, courts, classrooms, and hearts,
14 will be remembered as a husband, a father, a brother, a son, a
15 friend, and a coach to many; and

16 WHEREAS, Antoine Merrick is survived by his wife, Kelli
17 Michel'e Merrick; his children, Aaliyah Lachel'e Merrick,
18 Kaili Michel'e Merrick, A'Joine Jacquay Jones, and Taquan
19 Jamiroquai Jones; his parents, Anthony Coleman and Christine
20 Merrick; his siblings, Ciara Merrick, D'Andre Merrick, Ashley
21 Coleman, Meghan Donald, and DaQualon Coleman; his
22 siblings-in-love, Michael and Mikal Muhammad, Michael June,
23 Demetrius Sewell, Trent Ware, and Kiel Redding; and a host of

1 aunts, uncles, cousins, Paddyfote Soldiers, athletes, and
2 friends; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
4 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we mourn the passing of Antoine Lamar Merrick and extend our
6 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
7 and loved him; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Antoine Merrick as an expression of
10 our deepest sympathy.