



HR0569

LRB104 16588 LAW 29987 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 former Village President Ronald "Ron" Bean of Park Forest, who passed away in November 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Ron Bean, the son of William and Camilla Bean, was born in Chicago on March 1943; he was raised with the quiet determination of an individual called to purpose, shaped by the values of his parents; he earned his Juris Doctor from DePaul University College of Law; and

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WHEREAS, Ron Bean began a legal career that became a springboard for civic transformation; after moving to the Village of Park Forest in 1969, he made history after being elected the first Black village trustee and ultimately its first Black village president, a position he held from 1981 to 1986; he guided Park Forest during a pivotal era when the village became one of the nation's first successfully integrated communities, and his tenure was marked by bold initiatives and a belief that communities thrive through collaboration; he championed the redevelopment of Norwood and Blackhawk Centers, advanced early Tax Increment Financing strategies, and helped launch ventures that broadened the village's cultural and social fabric; he also oversaw the

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1 establishment of the professional Park Forest Symphony, later  
2 known as the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, along with the  
3 senior citizen community Garden House and the PIZAZZ  
4 festival, a celebration of the village's diversity and  
5 creativity; and

6 WHEREAS, Ron Bean's influence extended far beyond Park  
7 Forest; he served as executive director of the Illinois  
8 Development Finance Authority for 15 years, overseeing the  
9 issuance of billions in bonds that spurred statewide economic  
10 development and job creation; his leadership later proved  
11 indispensable at the Community and Economic Development  
12 Association of Cook County (CEDA), where he guided the  
13 organization through a fiscal restructuring that strengthened  
14 its capacity to serve families in need; and

15 WHEREAS, Ron Bean consistently championed educational  
16 excellence throughout his life; he became president of  
17 Southland College Preparatory Charter High School Board of  
18 Directors in 2010, helping build it from the ground up into the  
19 top-performing charter high school in Illinois; he also served  
20 as president of the SPEED SEJA District 802 Governing Board,  
21 spearheading the modernization of its special education  
22 facilities to promote life skills, independence, and dignity  
23 for students with diverse needs; he served on the Matteson  
24 School District 162 Board for more than 30 years, most

1 recently as president; and

2 WHEREAS, Ron Bean was a consummate servant leader and lent  
3 his expertise to numerous boards, including the Bank of  
4 Matteson, the Great Lakes Bank, the Illinois Philharmonic  
5 Orchestra, Goodman Theatre, the PACE Advisory Board, and the  
6 Governors State University (GSU) Foundation; he became the  
7 namesake of the Ronald Bean Community Service Scholarship at  
8 GSU, a scholarship established in 2009 by his wife, Dr. Sharon  
9 G. Bean, to nurture the next generation of public servants and  
10 honor students whose dedication to community mirrored his own;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Ron Bean was a pioneering public servant guided  
13 by an unshakable faith, a profound sense of duty, a vision of  
14 equity, and a belief that communities rise highest when they  
15 rise together; whether navigating complex policy decisions or  
16 consoling a community member in hardship, he carried himself  
17 with humility, patience, and a certainty that he was guided by  
18 a higher purpose; and

19 WHEREAS, Ron Bean carved a legacy defined not by titles  
20 nor accolades but by the countless lives his service  
21 strengthened and uplifted; he leaves behind a region shaped by  
22 his vision, a family fortified by his love, and a legacy that  
23 will continue to guide all who believe in service as a way of

1 life; and

2 WHEREAS, Ron Bean was preceded in death by his parents and  
3 his sister, Camilla Smith; and

4 WHEREAS, Ron Bean is survived by his wife, Dr. Sharon G.  
5 Bean; his children, Ronald (Erin) Bean, Karmen Green, Jerold  
6 (Jennifer) Bean, Mia (Johnny) Mullins, and Pilar (Brandon)  
7 Summerville; their grandchildren, Marlee, Maci, Kayla, Morgan,  
8 Myles, Jahlil, Justin, Jade, Zarah, and Braxton; his siblings,  
9 William Bean, Birdette (Tom) Terry, and Linda Manning; and his  
10 niece, Diedra; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
12 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13 we mourn the passing of former Village President Ronald "Ron"  
14 Bean of Park Forest and extend our sincere condolences to his  
15 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
16 further

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