



SR0136

LRB104 12476 ECR 22809 r

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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 Kenneth Ray Ford, who passed away on February 14, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Kenneth Ford was born to James "Partner" Ford and Edna Bennett in Tamms; he attended Blane Elementary School while supplementing his family's income by working a number of jobs, including plowing fields and harvesting fruit; he graduated from Lovejoy High School and moved to Chicago; he served in the U.S. Army, through which he traveled throughout Europe; he then began an apprenticeship at the Central Shops of the University of Chicago, working under the tutelage of several physicists who contributed to the Manhattan Project; and

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WHEREAS, Kenneth Ford worked as a machinist who designed and made tools for scientific purposes, including several instruments sent on the Apollo 11 mission to the moon; he also served as a union steward, and he was elected as the first African American business representative for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO in the 1980s, remaining in this position until he retired; and

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WHEREAS, Kenneth Ford committed to his faith later in

1 life, and he enjoyed golfing, improving his culinary skills,
2 traveling, gardening, and attending family gatherings; and

3 WHEREAS, Kenneth Ford was a lifelong believer in the
4 importance of fairness and justice; he will be remembered for
5 his quick wit, boisterous laughter, and sharp humor; and

6 WHEREAS, Kenneth Ford was preceded in death by his
7 children, Patricia Foggs and Richard Grundy; his grandson,
8 Aaron Ford; and his siblings, Marie Jackson, Wendell Ford,
9 Sandra Jones, and Marian Venson; and

10 WHEREAS, Kenneth Ford is survived by his wife, Flo; his
11 children, Kenneth Ray (Shirley) Grundy, Cynthia Denise Ford,
12 Joy (Bernard) Manley, and Angela (William) Ford-Heath; his
13 siblings, Ramona Moore, Ursula (Gerald) Jenkins, and Dana
14 Ford; and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren,
15 nieces, nephews, and friends; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
18 Kenneth Ray Ford and extend our sincere condolences to his
19 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Kenneth Ford as an expression of our
2 deepest sympathy.