

STATE OF ILLINOIS



HOUSE JOURNAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

64TH LEGISLATIVE DAY

PERFUNCTORY SESSION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2005

4:36 O'CLOCK P.M.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Daily Journal Index
64th Legislative Day**

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The House of Representatives met in Perfunctory Session pursuant to notice from the Speaker.

RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENTS

August 1, 2005

Clerk of the House of
Representatives
Attn: Mark Mahoney
Room 402
Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Mr. Mahoney:

This office is forwarding herewith a copy of the Notice of Vacancy from the Representative Committee of the Republican Party of the 55th Representative District, declaring the existence of a vacancy in the Office of Representative in the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly in the 55th Representative District, as a result of the resignation of **John Millner** effective June 30, 2005.

Also enclosed is the copy of the Certificate of Appointment by the Republican Representative Committee of the 55th Representative District for **Harry R. Ramey, Jr., 935 Glenlake Drive, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188**, to fill the vacancy in the Office of Representative, in the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly for the 55th Representative District.

Yours truly,
s/Jesse White
Secretary of State

June 30, 2005

Mr. Mark Mahoney
Clerk of the House
402 State Capitol
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Mark,

I am writing to notify you of my resignation from my seat in the House of Representatives for the 55th District effective June 30, 2005.

I have truly enjoyed my time in the House of Representatives; the experience I have gained and the many positive relationships that we have developed will be with me always. I appreciate the leadership and guidance you have all given and look forward to working with all of you and my fellow House members from my place in the Senate chamber.

Yours In Service,
s/John Millner
State Representative
55th District

NOTIFICATION OF VACANCY

Representative Committee of the)
Republican Party of the)
55th Legislative District)

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF COOK)

WHEREAS, Representative John Millner, a member of the Republican Party, has resigned as Representative in the General Assembly for the Fifty-Fifth Representative District;

WHEREAS, Representative Millner's resignation was effective June 30, 2005;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Representative Committee of the Republican Party of the Fifty-Fifth Representative District does hereby find and declare that the office of Representative in the General Assembly for the Fifty-Fifth Representative District is Vacant.

SIGNED: Kirk W. Dillard
Chairman

Dated: July 1, 2005

NOTICE

Change in the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Appointment
Harry R. Ramey, Jr.
935 Glenlake Drive
Carol Stream, IL 60188
55th Representative District
Appointed: July 29, 2005
Filed: August 1, 2005

Vacancy
John Millner
55th Representative District
Resigned: June 30, 2005
Filed: July 22, 2005

**CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCY
IN THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
IN THE FIFTY-FIFTH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT**

Representative Committee of the
Republican Party of the
55th Representative District

STATE
COUNTIES
COOK, DUPAGE, KANE

OF

ILLINOIS
OF

WHEREAS, a vacancy has occurred in the office of Representative in the General Assembly in the 55th Representative District of the State of Illinois by reason of the resignation of John Millner, a duly

[October 17, 2005]

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s/Harry R. Ramey

Subscribed and sworn before me, this 1st day of August, 2005

s/John J. Kinsella

Associate Judge Dupage County

s/Nancy A. Franz

State of Illinois Official Notary Public Seal

August 1, 2005

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

October 17, 2005

Mark Mahoney
Chief Clerk of the House
402 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Clerk Mahoney:

Pursuant to House Rule 9(a), by this letter I am establishing that the House of Representatives will have **Perfunctory session on Monday, October 17, 2005.**

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,
s/Michael J. Madigan
Speaker of the House

October 14, 2005

Mr. Mark Mahoney
Clerk of the House
402 State Capitol
Springfield, IL 62706

I am writing to notify you of my resignation from my seat in the House of Representatives for the 82nd District effective January 6, 2005.

I want to thank everyone involved in the process for the great working relationships that I have enjoyed for the last eleven years. It has been an honor to serve.

Sincerely,
s/Eileen Lyons
State Representative, 82nd District
Assistant House Republican Leader

SENATE BILLS ON FIRST READING

Having been reproduced, the following bills were taken up, read by title a first time and placed in the Committee on Rules: SENATE BILLS 932 (Saviano) and 1213 (Jones, L).

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were offered and placed in the Committee on Rules.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 597

Offered by Representative Poe:

WHEREAS, The Illinois Business Enterprise Program for the Blind is a federally-funded program that offers management opportunities in the food service industry to individuals who are legally blind; and

WHEREAS, The program is an entrepreneurial employment opportunity for the legally blind; after completing a six-month training course, certified graduates of the program operate vending facilities throughout the State and average more than \$40,000 a year in earnings; and

WHEREAS, The federal Business Enterprise Program for the Blind was created by the Randolph-Sheppard Act of 1936, and the Illinois program began in 1950; and

WHEREAS, There are currently over 110 vending facilities run by blind vendors serving Illinoisans across the State; and

WHEREAS, Many blind vendors rely on vending machines to make a living; and

WHEREAS, In April 2004, Governor Blagojevich released a plan for corporate sponsorship of State-run vending machines, which in essence will raise the costs of soda products for blind vendors by limiting purchasing choices; and

WHEREAS, Illinois Business Enterprise Program blind vendors oppose this policy, and believe that the Governor's plan would violate Illinois and federal law by limiting the placement and operation of vending facilities administered by the legally blind; and

WHEREAS, In April 2004, the Chairman of the Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors, John Gordon, walked 225 miles from Chicago to Springfield in protest of such policy and its impact on the blind community; and

WHEREAS, In August 2005, the Governor's office again contacted the blind vendors confirming that the State was moving forward with the policy of allowing corporate sponsorship for State-run vending machines; and

WHEREAS, In response, the blind vendors were purported to stage a protest in front of the James R. Thompson Center on August 24, 2005, but have agreed to negotiate in good faith with the Governor's office on August 25, 2005; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge Governor Blagojevich to reverse his policy recommendations and allow the blind vendors to continue current practice; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be presented to Governor Blagojevich and the Chairman of the Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors, John Gordon.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 606

Offered by Representative Flowers:

WHEREAS, According to the American Association of Retired Persons, almost two-thirds of Social Security beneficiaries (62.8 percent) are retired workers; and

WHEREAS, The average monthly retirement benefit for a retired worker is \$955 and for an aged couple where both are beneficiaries, the amount is \$1,574; and

WHEREAS, Social Security is the dominant source of income for people age 65 and older with more than two-thirds of all those older than 65 dependent on Social Security for more than 50 percent of their income; and

WHEREAS, Close to 80 percent of African Americans and 76 percent of Hispanics age 65 and older depend on Social Security for more than 50 percent of their income and almost 75 percent of unmarried women rely on Social Security for half or more of their income; and

WHEREAS, Today, of the almost 159 million people who work in jobs covered by Social Security, about 90 percent are wage and salaried taxpayers and 10 percent are self-employed taxpayers and the FICA taxes workers paid in 2004 represented more than \$553 billion in Social Security revenue; and

WHEREAS, Some beneficiaries also contribute to the system by paying taxes on a portion of their benefits of which \$15.7 billion of the income to the OASDI trust funds came from taxation of benefits in 2004; and

WHEREAS, According to the Social Security Administration, Social Security retirement benefits are not awarded in the year that the beneficiary is eligible to receive them, nor for the first month following the beneficiary's birth date; and

WHEREAS, This failure to provide the first month of retirement benefits amounts to an average loss of \$955 for a retired worker; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we call upon the United States Congress to pass legislation for the future award of Social Security retirement benefits to begin on each beneficiary's birth date in the year that the beneficiary is eligible; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 609

Offered by Representative Reis:

WHEREAS, The University of Illinois was founded in 1867 as a land grant university in the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, The University of Illinois, one of the nation's great research universities, known for its distinguished faculty, its outstanding resources, and the breadth of its academic programs, is deeply committed to educating its large, diverse student body and to engaging in critical societal and scientific issues; and

WHEREAS, The University of Illinois is a voluntary member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association whose by-laws guarantee institutional autonomy; and

WHEREAS, The National Collegiate Athletic Association has issued a hostile and abusive edict that directly contradicts a 1995 finding by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights; and

WHEREAS, The National Collegiate Athletic Association used inflammatory rhetoric that retards meaningful discussion and debate on a consensus process that has been in progress by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees since June 17, 2004; and

WHEREAS, The National Collegiate Athletic Association edict is a giant step backwards in the debate and has caused the loss of common ground to armies of divisiveness; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the National Collegiate Athletic Association be denied the ability to compromise the sovereignty of the State of Illinois and its institutions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to the University of Illinois Board of Trustees and to the National Collegiate Athletic Association as an expression of our utmost resolve and support of institutional autonomy and a rebuke of the violation of institutional autonomy by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 621

Offered by Representative Howard:

WHEREAS, On October 20 and 21, 2005, the One Church One School Community Partnership Program will host the Tenth Annual Partnership Conference; and

WHEREAS, The One Church One School Community Partnership Program is committed to teaching our children to value life and to value learning; and

WHEREAS, The founder of the One Church One School Community Partnership Program, Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr. has demonstrated a strong commitment to expanding economic and educational opportunities for our children; and

WHEREAS, The participants and members of One Church One School Community Partnership Program are to be commended for their efforts to form child-centered church/school partnerships that nurture

children, address academic achievement, social behavior, personal development, and foster non-violence in our schools and communities; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we proclaim October 16-22, 2005 to be One Church One School Community Partnership Week, and encourage all to recognize the importance of inspiring and motivating our children to reach their full potential; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr. as an expression of our admiration and esteem.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 654

Offered by Representative Madigan:

WHEREAS, Social Security is a public insurance program that aims to provide Americans with a minimal level of income once they have reached retirement age, while providing individual equity by returning a higher benefit to those that have paid more into the system over their history in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, Social Security became law under the administration of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the Great Depression, when half of the country's senior population relied upon another person for their livelihood; and

WHEREAS, Social Security now provides essential financial assistance nationwide and to nearly 2 million Illinois senior citizens, disabled individuals, and survivors who depend on their \$20 billion in payments as the sole route to a life of dignity and independence; and

WHEREAS, Millions nationwide and more than 569,000 Illinois senior citizens would live in poverty were it not for their monthly Social Security benefit; and

WHEREAS, The demographic climate of the United States is beginning to change; the Baby Boomer Generation will begin to retire in the year 2008, dramatically increasing the percentage of the American senior population and placing a heavy burden on the Social Security system; and

WHEREAS, The growth in our country's labor force is expected to decrease to only 25% of what it has been in the last century, further burdening the Social Security system due to the lack of payroll tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that the balance of the Social Security Trust Fund, which has been accumulating a surplus since 1983, will begin to pay out more in benefits than it receives in revenue in the year 2017; and

WHEREAS, Although the Social Security Trust Fund has been accumulating a surplus since 1983, and that surplus has now reached nearly \$1.8 trillion, the federal government borrows from that Trust Fund annually to fund other government spending; and

WHEREAS, There is now much discussion about reforming the Social Security system to ensure its financial viability, and those reform options vary from making very small adjustments to making sweeping changes to the program; and

WHEREAS, One of the most discussed reform options is privatization, which involves taking a portion of revenue coming into the Social Security Trust Fund and placing it in personal retirement accounts for individuals who choose to participate; and

WHEREAS, It has been shown that privatization of the Social Security system can lead to a variety of problems, including, increasing the national debt, forcing participants to pay exorbitantly high administrative fees, reducing the promised benefits for participants, and ultimately taking away the security of a steady retirement income; and

WHEREAS, Privatization of Social Security was tried in the United Kingdom, pronounced a failure, and now faces an overhaul using the current United States Social Security system as a model; and

WHEREAS, The changing demographics of the United States may cause stress on the Social Security system, but making smaller adjustments to the program that has performed so effectively over the last 70 years is a better option than making sweeping changes that would undermine the very philosophy of the program; and

WHEREAS, In response to published reports that the United States Congress was preparing to make extraordinary and unnecessary modifications to the Social Security system, Illinois House Speaker Michael J. Madigan and members of the Illinois House of Representatives have conducted a series of regional

forums, modeled on a previously successful series of statewide summits to review the State's budget and fiscal circumstances, to educate the public on the current status and future of the Social Security System in recent months; and

WHEREAS, The overwhelming reaction from Illinois citizens who have attended the forums and from highly respected non-partisan organizations that advocate on behalf of Illinois consumers, working families, and senior citizens has been that the current level of benefits to Social Security beneficiaries must be maintained and annually adjusted to keep pace with the rate of inflation, that federal lawmakers and the President stop borrowing from the Social Security Trust Fund to fund other government spending, and that privatization of Social Security not be undertaken; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge President George Walker Bush and the United States Congress to resist radical and risky changes that could jeopardize the retirements of millions of Americans and make only the modest adjustments necessary to maintain the integrity of the Social Security system for decades to come; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President of the United States of America, the Vice President of the United States of America, and to Illinois' United States Senators and United States Representatives.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 64

Offered by Representative Dunkin:

WHEREAS, The members of the General Assembly and the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus wish to recognize and honor the Black Harvest Chicago Film Community for their work in the City of Chicago and throughout the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Chicago has become one of the liveliest centers for independent film production by African-American artists in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Independent filmmakers bring a freshness to the movie scene that is not always present or possible in the studio system; and

WHEREAS, Black filmmakers in Chicago and throughout Illinois are to be applauded for their creativity in achieving their production and marketing goals in the face of funding obstacles; and

WHEREAS, Local black filmmakers have a tradition of encouraging young people to tell their own stories and sharpen their skills and crafts to be well-equipped when opportunities come along; and

WHEREAS, Since 1995, the Gene Siskel Film Center, part of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, has provided an important venue for showcasing the talent of African-American filmmakers through its annual Black Harvest International Festival of Film and Video; and

WHEREAS, Black Harvest premieres new feature-length and short films, is the place to see local productions by African-American independent filmmakers, and serves as a forum for discussion, debate, and learning where producers, directors, screenwriters, and actors can discuss the art and craft of their work; and

WHEREAS, The 11th Annual Black Harvest festival is the biggest one yet, extending from August 4 through August 31, 2005, and featuring 38 films and 8 local movies, including CAGED by Eldridge Valentine, COMATOSE by Mike Merrill, THE MISSING PEACE by Rachel Benjamin, TOOT'S AND BLOW'S by Deri Tyton, RUNT produced by Joe English, and the Chicago-Botswana co-production HOT CHILI by Moabi Mogorosi; Chicago-made short films include COMFORT by J.L. Tops, LIMP by Abdul Malik, and WALT BROTHER WALT by Bradford Stevens, and many other movies with Chicago connections, including the definitive tribute to the late jazz great Oscar Brown Jr. entitled OSCAR BROWN JR.: MUSIC IS MY LIFE, POLITICS MY MISTRESS by Donnie I. Betts; and

WHEREAS, Target, NBC 5, American Airlines, WVON Radio, Northern Trust, TimeOut Chicago, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Illinois Arts Council have provided support for Black Harvest; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, and represented by Representative Ken Dunkin and Senator Ricky Hendon, that we honor and celebrate the work of local African-American filmmakers as important voices for power, alienation, urban realities, and the beauty of black cultural practices; we celebrate your talents and are inspired by your dedication to expressing the

depth of the black experience; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Black Harvest Chicago Film Community as a token of our gratitude and respect.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 66

Offered by Representative Dugan:

WHEREAS, Dr. Gerald L. Downie died in 2000, having served as a physician in Kankakee, Ill. for more than 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Gerald L. Downie was born in 1903 and was educated in a one-room schoolhouse in Mt. Ayr, Iowa, later graduating as the top student at Simpson College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Downie graduated from Northwestern Medical School and served his internship at Kankakee State Hospital, now known as Shapiro Developmental Center; and

WHEREAS, From 1932 through 1950 Dr. Downie and his wife, Maurine, served three times as medical missionaries for the United Methodist Church in China, leaving for a one-year furlough in 1937, just as the Japanese invaded, and leaving the final time after spending nine months under communist rule; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Downie also served as a medical missionary in India, Africa, Taiwan, and Malaysia before returning to Kankakee County, where he practiced medicine until he reached the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, The State Route 17 bridge across the Kankakee River in Kankakee is now known as the Court Street Bridge; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Court Street Bridge in Kankakee be designated the Dr. Gerald L. Downie Bridge; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with State regulations, appropriate plaques or signs giving notice of the name; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation and to Kankakee Mayor Donald E. Green.

At the hour of 4:38 o'clock p.m., the House Perfunctory Session adjourned until Wednesday, October 19, 2005, at 12:00 o'clock noon.