

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Dr.  
4 Arnita Young Boswell, formerly of Chicago, who passed away  
5 July 6, 2002, in Los Angeles, California; and

6 WHEREAS, When Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led a massive  
7 civil rights demonstration in Chicago in the summer of 1966,  
8 Arnita Young Boswell directed the women's division of the  
9 march; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Boswell was a social worker, university  
11 professor, and titan in Chicago's social justice arena who  
12 helped found the National Hook-Up of Black Women and the  
13 League of Black Women; and

14 WHEREAS, The sister of the late Whitney M. Young Jr., a  
15 civil rights leader who was executive director of the  
16 National Urban League, Dr. Boswell shared her brother's  
17 passion for social justice for prisoners, the poor, children,  
18 senior citizens, women, Native Americans and many others; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Boswell was born in Detroit, and her family  
20 moved to the campus of the Lincoln Institute of Kentucky,  
21 where her father, Whitney M. Young Sr., taught and was a  
22 principal; her mother, Laura, was the first African-American  
23 female postmistress in the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Boswell earned a degree in home economics  
25 from Kentucky State University in 1943 and a graduate degree  
26 in social work from Atlanta University in Georgia; during  
27 World War II she joined the American Red Cross, serving as a  
28 recreation director for soldiers stationed in Germany; and

29 WHEREAS, On her return, she became a social worker with  
30 the Red Cross and was trained to fly by a Tuskegee Airman at  
31 Fisk University in Tennessee, where she met her first

1 husband, William Yancy Bell Jr.; in the mid-1950s, she  
2 married Dr. Paul Boswell, a dermatologist; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Boswell taught social work for 19 years at  
4 the University of Chicago and later was director of social  
5 services at the University of Illinois at Chicago; in the  
6 mid-1980s she began work as manager of the Family Resource  
7 Center in the city's Department of Human Services; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Boswell's organization, the National Hook-Up  
9 of Black Women, was a support base for black female  
10 activists; she also founded the Chicago-based consulting firm  
11 Boswell-Young & Associates, and her memberships included the  
12 Women's Board of the Chicago Urban League, the Alpha Gamma Pi  
13 sorority, The Chicago Network, and Protestants for the Common  
14 Good; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Arnita Boswell will be deeply missed by all  
16 those who knew her and loved her, especially her daughter,  
17 Bonnie Boswell, and her husband, Atty. Roderick Hamilton; her  
18 sister, Eleanor Love; her two grandsons, Taylor Whitney and  
19 Evan Boswell Hamilton; and numerous family members and  
20 friends; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
23 we mourn, along with her family and friends, the death of Dr.  
24 Arnita Boswell; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
26 presented to the family of Dr. Arnita Boswell with our  
27 sincere condolences.