

LA SHAWN K. FORD
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State Rep. and Member-Elect La Shawn K. Ford Files Resolution Calling for Harold Washington Statue in U.S. Capitol

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Illinois State Representative and U.S. House Member-Elect La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) has filed House Resolution 1093, calling for Harold Washington, Chicago's first Black mayor and a former member of the Illinois General Assembly and U.S. Congress, to be honored with a statue in the United States Capitol as part of the National Statuary Hall Collection.

"Harold Washington was the People's Mayor. He opened the doors of City Hall to every neighborhood in Chicago and proved what a coalition of working people can accomplish," said Ford. "He served Illinois in Springfield and in Washington. He belongs in the halls of Congress, where millions of visitors every year will have the opportunity to learn his name, his story, and the standard of fairness he set."

Born in Chicago on April 15, 1922, Washington attended Chicago Public Schools and graduated from DuSable High School. He served in the U.S. Army Air Forces in the Pacific during World War II and later earned his law degree from Northwestern University.

Washington began his legislative career in the Illinois House of Representatives in 1965, moved to the Illinois Senate in 1977, and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1980. In 1983, he made history as Chicago's first Black mayor. He was reelected in 1987 and served until his death later that year.

The National Statuary Hall Collection includes two statues representing each state. Illinois is currently represented by Frances Willard and James Shields, whose statues were placed in the Capitol in 1905 and 1893, respectively.

Federal law allows states to request the replacement of statues through a process requiring state legislative approval, the governor's approval, and authorization from the congressional Joint Committee on the Library.

Ford's resolution calls for Washington to be recognized in the collection. It does not identify which of Illinois' existing statues would be replaced. Additional legislative action and federal approval would be necessary before a replacement could proceed.

"As I prepare to take my own seat in Congress, I can think of no better Illinoisan to greet visitors to the Capitol than Harold Washington," Ford added. "His legacy belongs to all of Illinois and all of America. I invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in co-sponsoring this resolution."

House Resolution 1093 was filed with the Clerk of the Illinois House of Representatives on November 17, 2026.

Read House Resolution 1093:
https://my.ilga.gov/Legislation/BillStatus?DocNum=1093&DocTypeID=HR&GAID=18&LegID=169197&SessionID=114

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