

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**No. 116**      Session of  
1989

---

INTRODUCED BY JONES, FUMO, MELLOW, BELL, LINCOLN, JUBELIRER,  
ROSS, DAWIDA, STAPLETON, PORTERFIELD, O'PAKE, BODACK,  
RHOADES, LEMMOND, LOEPER, LEWIS, FATTAH, REGOLI, BELAN,  
BRIGHTBILL, SALVATORE, ROCKS, HELFRICK, HESS, WENGER AND  
MADIGAN, NOVEMBER 14, 1989

---

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, NOVEMBER 14, 1989

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Offering condolences to the family of Senator Herbert Arlene.

2       WHEREAS, Senator Herbert Arlene, Sr., was born September 5,  
3 1914, in Harrison, Georgia, the son of Elbert and Mattie King  
4 Arlene; and

5       WHEREAS, Senator Arlene was the youngest of 11 children. He  
6 attended the Harrison Public Schools and then traveled with his  
7 family to Philadelphia to attend and graduate from high school;  
8 and

9       WHEREAS, The Senator worked at a Naval yard, attended  
10 Philadelphia Business School, shortly thereafter opened Wigfall  
11 and Arlene's Tailor Shop in North Philadelphia, and was later  
12 honored with an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Miller  
13 College; and

14       WHEREAS, He met and married Emma Davis in 1934, and from this  
15 union were born two children, Herbert Arlene, Jr., and Clara  
16 Irene Banks; and

1       WHEREAS, He began his political career as a committeeman and  
2 then moved on to become ward leader. He was elected in 1956 to  
3 the House of Representatives during a time when it was difficult  
4 for blacks to be elected to a State office; and

5       WHEREAS, On November 8, 1966, he became the first black in  
6 the history of this Commonwealth to be elected to the State  
7 Senate; and

8       WHEREAS, During 14 years of serving in the State Senate in a  
9 quiet, but strong and influential manner, he consistently  
10 supported programs that benefited the black community and the  
11 poor; and

12       WHEREAS, He worked and cosponsored legislation that increased  
13 black enrollment in local medical schools, created low-income  
14 housing, investigated migrant farm workers' working conditions,  
15 extended unemployment benefits and improved other major problem  
16 areas for the poor; and

17       WHEREAS, His business affiliations included the North  
18 Philadelphia Businessmen's Association and Local #10 Laundry and  
19 Dry Cleaning International Union, AFL/CIO; and

20       WHEREAS, A community and education minded politician, Herb,  
21 as he was called by his close friends and associates, served as  
22 a board member of the Wharton Neighborhood Community Center, the  
23 Model Cities Neighborhood Council #15, the Y.M.C.A., the North  
24 Central Branch of the N.A.A.C.P., Philadelphia Chapter of the  
25 Urban league, Temple University Mental Health Retardation  
26 Center, North Central Community Organization, Greater  
27 Philadelphia Development Corporation, Beaver Institute and the  
28 Philadelphia Athletic Club; and

29       WHEREAS, Senator Arlene was also a member of the Odd Fellows,  
30 Elks, Prince Hall Masonic Order, Pyramid Temple #1, and A.E.O.

1 Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He was a 33rd Degree Mason; and

2 WHEREAS, A true soldier who labored untiringly, he passed on  
3 with his boots on when God called him home on November 9, 1989;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, He leaves, to keep alive his loving memory, one son,  
6 Herbert, Jr., one daughter, Clara Irene Banks, four  
7 grandchildren, three great grandchildren, one daughter-in-law,  
8 one son-in-law, one goddaughter, three sisters-in-law, many  
9 nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of relatives and friends;  
10 therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
12 offer condolences to the family of Senator Herbert Arlene.