

2002 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 263

Celebrating the life of the Reverend Dr. William Bernard Schiele.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 28, 2002
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 4, 2002

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. William Bernard Schiele of Hampton, the pastor of First Baptist Church Jefferson Park for 41 years, died on February 20, 2002; and

WHEREAS, a native of Gilbert, Louisiana, Dr. Schiele graduated from Sevier Rosewald High School and earned his bachelor's degree in theology from the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Schiele, who continued his education at Virginia Union University, became pastor of First Baptist Church Jefferson Park on February 1, 1956, and served with great devotion, vision, and leadership until his retirement in 1997; and

WHEREAS, under the strong leadership of Dr. Schiele, First Baptist Church Jefferson Park grew and prospered, purchasing the property on which the current church is built, building the present church, which was completed in 1967, and burning the mortgage on the church in 1974; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Schiele also oversaw the building of the church's Education Building in 1981, the mortgage on which was also paid off in 1998; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of First Baptist Church Jefferson Park is reflected in the increased numbers of deacons, trustees, and other officials, all of whom were the responsibility of Dr. Schiele and all of whom he inspired and mentored; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Schiele led the formation of many new organizations and the reorganization of others at First Baptist Church Jefferson Park, including the Church Interest Group, the Men's Club and Male Chorus, the Floral Committee, the W. B. Schiele Gospel Chorus, and the Fellowship Committee; and

WHEREAS, many other improvements to the church took place during the tenure of Dr. Schiele, whose influence on the lives of the parishioners of First Baptist Church Jefferson Park is profound, treasured, and lasting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly note with great sadness the passing of one of Hampton's most prominent spiritual leaders, the Reverend Dr. William Bernard Schiele; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of the Reverend Dr. William Bernard Schiele as an expression of the esteem in which his memory is held by the members of the General Assembly.

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