

# 2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5076

Offered May 6, 2014

*Commending the Reverend Dr. Willie Woodson.*

Patron—McClellan

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Willie Woodson, an admired spiritual and community leader in Richmond, retires as the pastor of First United Presbyterian Church on June 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, a native of Richmond, Willie Woodson earned a bachelor's degree from Virginia Union University, master's degrees from Virginia Union University and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, and a doctorate from Union Presbyterian Seminary; and

WHEREAS, desirous to be of service to his country, Reverend Woodson joined the United States Air Force in 1967 and received an honorable discharge in 1971; and

WHEREAS, as the pastor of First United Presbyterian Church in Richmond for more than 27 years, Reverend Woodson developed or revitalized numerous ministries; he engaged the congregation in studies to broaden existing ministries and support innovative approaches, initiated a summer day camp, and helped plan a new community and educational building; and

WHEREAS, an admired leader in the Presbyterian church, Reverend Woodson has served in leadership positions at local, state, and national levels, and he has spread joy and good will throughout the world, participating in mission trips to Central America, West Africa, and Asia; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Woodson authored the booklets "Can I Get a Witness" and "Contextually Grounded Evangelism" and coauthored "Beams of Heaven As I Go"; he also created a board game called "Christo"; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Woodson has offered his time and wise leadership to countless boards, commissions, and civic and service organizations; he served as a member of the boards of Boaz and Ruth and Northside Outreach Affordable Housing, and as the executive director of Living the Dream, Inc., he expanded programs and emphasized youth leadership development; and

WHEREAS, striving to support and inspire the youth of the Commonwealth, Reverend Woodson helped develop a day-care center at Thyne Memorial Presbyterian Church, mentored students at Henderson Middle School, and served as an adjunct professor at the Virginia University of Lynchburg; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Woodson has earned many awards and accolades for his service over the years, including the Verizon Wireless Humanitarian Award in 2008; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Reverend Dr. Willie Woodson on the occasion of his retirement in 2014; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend Dr. Willie Woodson as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his decades of service to the community and best wishes on a happy retirement.

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