

## 2015 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 216

*Celebrating the life of Grant S. Williams, Sr.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 30, 2015

WHEREAS, Grant S. Williams, Sr., a respected member of the Hampton community and a proud veteran who served among the historic Tuskegee Airmen, died on June 22, 2014; and

WHEREAS, a native of Halifax County, Grant Williams joined many of the other young men of his generation in service to his country during World War II; he was inducted into the United States Army in 1942 and completed basic training at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, in 1944, Grant Williams deployed to Italy with the 96th Air Service Group—one of the few all African American service groups serving in combat during the war—which provided field support to the 332nd Fighter Group; and

WHEREAS, Grant Williams earned a Bronze Star for his meritorious service and had risen to the rank of master sergeant when he received an honorable discharge in 1945; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Grant Williams joined the United States Army Reserve; he was recalled to active duty in 1950 and served his country in Japan, Turkey, and Vietnam before retiring as a chief master sergeant in the United States Air Force in 1975; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Tidewater chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., Grant Williams worked diligently to preserve the history and heritage of African American World War II aviators; and

WHEREAS, in September 2010, Grant Williams was honored as the first and only Tuskegee Airman to be inducted into the United States Air Force CHIEFS Room; and

WHEREAS, Grant Williams enjoyed fellowship and worship with the community as a lifetime member of First Calvary Baptist Church in Hampton; he will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by numerous family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Grant S. Williams, Sr., a proud veteran and a respected member of the Hampton community; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Grant S. Williams, Sr., as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.

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