

2016 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 394

Offered March 1, 2016

Commending Katie Ruth Langley Williams.

Patron—McQuinn

WHEREAS, Katie Ruth Langley Williams, a respected citizen of the Commonwealth and a woman of strong faith, is honored on the occasion of her 100th birthday; and

WHEREAS, Katie Williams, who was born in the Cherry Lane section of Pitt County in North Carolina on February 20, 1916, was educated in the Pitt County Public Schools and lived most of her life in rural Pitt County and the County of Martin; and

WHEREAS, Katie Williams married her husband, Zena Perkins, Sr., at age 15, and their union produced two sons; and after being widowed at the early age of 18, she married Willie S. Williams at age 21 and the couple had 10 children; and

WHEREAS, Katie Williams worked dutifully as a homemaker and nursing assistant to help care for her family, and she devoted her time, talent, and resources at an early age to faithful service at St. Peter Baptist Church and St. Mary Baptist Church, and has been the "church mother" for the past 62 years at Whichard Chapel in Stokes, North Carolina; her weekly presence at Sunday services is an inspiration to the rest of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, the world has been reshaped in Katie Williams' lifetime by two world wars and numerous conflicts and by innovations and conveniences such as electricity, the automobile, the cell phone, and digital television; throughout she has remained true to her Christian faith and continues to find strength, respite, and renewal at Whichard Chapel; and

WHEREAS, Katie Williams has led a productive and blessed life and is the only surviving sibling of 15 children and has survived two husbands, six adult children, and two adult grandsons; and

WHEREAS, the family, friends, and fellow members of Whichard Chapel have joined Katie Williams, a devout and steadfast Christian, a fifth-generation matriarch who is the mother of 12, grandmother of 28, great-grandmother of 46, and a great-great grandmother, in celebrating this special centennial birthday surrounded by loved ones, and with prayers and good wishes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Katie Ruth Langley Williams on the occasion of her 100th birthday; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Katie Ruth Langley Williams as an expression of the General Assembly's best wishes for future health and happiness.

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