

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 194

Celebrating the life of the Honorable William T. Stone, Sr.

Agreed to by the Senate, March 6, 2018
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 7, 2018

WHEREAS, the Honorable William T. Stone, Sr., a highly admired attorney and a former judge of the Ninth Judicial District of Virginia, who touched the lives of countless families in the Williamsburg area as a funeral home director, died on January 18, 2018; and

WHEREAS, born in Washington, D.C., William Stone graduated from Bruton Heights School in Williamsburg and learned the value of community service at a young age while working at his family's business, Whiting's Funeral Home, the oldest, active African American-owned business in Williamsburg; and

WHEREAS, William Stone earned a bachelor's degree from Central State College in Ohio, then served the nation as a military policeman in the United States Army; he trained as an embalmer during his time in the military and later attended the New England Institute of Anatomy, Sanitary Science, and Embalming in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, William Stone worked as a member of the United States Secret Service, the Supreme Court Police, and the Veteran's Administration, then earned a law degree from The American University in 1962; and

WHEREAS, William Stone opened Stone & Associates in 1964 and later moved the practice to Williamsburg, becoming the first African American attorney to open a firm and practice law in the city; Stone & Associates was also the first integrated law firm in the city; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, William Stone was appointed as a judge of the Williamsburg/James City County General District Court of the Ninth Judicial District of Virginia; he was the first African American judge in Williamsburg and thought to be the first in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, William Stone earned the respect and admiration of his peers in the legal profession for his work ethic and cordial demeanor; he served as a trusted mentor and friend to countless African American attorneys and judges; and

WHEREAS, after his well-earned retirement as a judge and attorney, William Stone continued to serve the community at Whiting's Funeral Home, providing professional, compassionate care to families in their time of need and ensuring that everyone received a dignified burial regardless of a family's ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, William Stone traveled extensively and worked with international businesses and organizations to enhance the lives of people in other countries while enriching local culture in Williamsburg; and

WHEREAS, William Stone offered his leadership and expertise to many professional and peer organizations, and he was a founding member of the Zeta Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and a member of the Improved, Benevolent, Protective Order of the Elks of the World, Old Capital Lodge No. 629; and

WHEREAS, William Stone will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his loving wife, Sara; his children, Tommy, Jackie, Michael, and Christopher, and their families; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of the Honorable William T. Stone, Sr., a trailblazing attorney, judge, and business owner in Williamsburg; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of the Honorable William T. Stone, Sr., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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