

2021 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 733

Offered February 2, 2021

Celebrating the life of the Reverend Dr. Willie Woodson.

Patrons—McQuinn, Adams, D.M., Bagby, Bourne, Carr, Convirs-Fowler, Delaney, Heretick, Hope, Rasoul, Reid, Scott, Simonds and Ware; Senator: Spruill

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Willie Woodson, a spiritual leader and community activist who touched countless lives throughout the Richmond region, died on December 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, a native of Richmond, Willie Woodson graduated from Armstrong High School and served his country as a member of the United States Air Force; he returned to Richmond in 1971 to care for his siblings after their mother's death and worked at the nearby Defense General Supply Center; and

WHEREAS, Willie Woodson continued his education with a bachelor's degree and a master of divinity degree from Virginia Union University, as well as a master's degree from what is now Union Presbyterian Seminary and a doctorate from Union Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Willie Woodson answered the call to ministry at First United Presbyterian Church and led the congregation for 27 years, increasing community engagement, establishing a summer camp, and building additional support for church youth groups; and

WHEREAS, Willie Woodson subsequently became the pastor of Trinity Ghanaian Presbyterian Church; he was an active leader in the Presbytery of the James, including as moderator of the organization's Black Caucus; and

WHEREAS, Willie Woodson was a prolific author and a passionate educator who served as an adjunct instructor for a University of Lynchburg satellite program in Petersburg; he volunteered to mentor students at Henderson Middle School and offered his expertise to the Richmond Public Schools strategic planning group; and

WHEREAS, for more than a decade, Willie Woodson celebrated the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the civil rights movement as the executive director of the annual Living the Dream program; and

WHEREAS, Willie Woodson further strengthened the Richmond community as executive director of the nonprofit organization Citizens Against Crime and as a member of the Richmond Commission of Architectural Review, Boaz & Ruth, the Richmond Crusade for Voters, and the local NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Willie Woodson will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his daughter, Beverly, and her family; his sisters, Jane and Felicia, and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of the Reverend Dr. Willie Woodson, a faith and community leader in Richmond; 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 the Reverend Dr. Willie Woodson as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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