

1998 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 82

Offered January 20, 1998

Commending The Rev. I. Joseph Williams.

Patrons—Robinson and Jones, J.C.

WHEREAS, The Rev. I. Joseph Williams of Norfolk celebrated his 50th year of ministry to congregations in Virginia and North Carolina in August 1997; and

WHEREAS, The Rev. I. Joseph Williams since 1970 has been pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in the Berkley section of Norfolk, where he leads a congregation of 3,000; and

WHEREAS, In addition to nurturing his own congregation, The Rev. I. Joseph Williams has served thousands of people over the years through ministries such as the United Christian Front for Brotherhood, which he founded to provide people with food, shoes, and clothes; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to changing the attitudes of all races and nationalities, The Rev. I. Joseph Williams particularly has supported the activities of the NAACP, which he has served as president and which counts within his own congregation 17 lifetime memberships, a testament to The Rev. Williams' leadership by example; and

WHEREAS, The Rev. I. Joseph Williams has been dedicated to community and political activism, quietly serving as advisor and mentor to countless public officials in Norfolk and gaining a reputation in particular as a coalition builder; and

WHEREAS, ably supported and assisted by his wife of 47 years, Elsie, The Rev. I. Joseph Williams truly has reflected a "desire to make a difference in the lives of people and the will to make changes in the community;" now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly congratulate The Rev. I. Joseph Williams on attaining his recent milestone and commend him for his years of dedicated service; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to The Rev. I. Joseph Williams as an expression of the high esteem with which the General Assembly holds his manifold contributions to the religious, social, and civic affairs of his community.

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