

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA -- 1998 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 82

Commending the Reverend I. Joseph Williams.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 23, 1998

Agreed to by the Senate, January 29, 1998

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

WHEREAS, the Reverend 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 Reverend 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 Reverend I. Joseph Williams has supported the NAACP, and has served as president; and as a testament to his leadership by example there are 17 lifetime memberships in his congregation; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend 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 Elsie his wife of 47 years, the Reverend I. Joseph Williams 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 Reverend 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 Reverend 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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