

2015 SESSION

INTRODUCED

15104298D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 777

Offered February 6, 2015

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2
3 *Celebrating the life of Nora Ruth Williamson.*

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5 Patrons—Pogge; Senator: Norment

6 WHEREAS, Nora Ruth Williamson of Seaford, an advocate for children in need in York County as
7 a volunteer, foster parent, and employee of York County government, a longtime member of the
8 Exchange Club of York service organization, and a devoted wife and mother, died on October 3, 2014;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Ruth Williamson was born in Newport News and graduated from Warwick High
11 School; she married and raised a family of four children, and in her 50s she returned to school, earning
12 a degree from Thomas Nelson Community College; and

13 WHEREAS, Ruth Williamson's calling to help underprivileged children began in 1973 as a volunteer
14 in the York County Public Schools system; she took children to medical appointments and also
15 purchased clothing and shoes for less fortunate young people; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1974, Ruth Williamson became a foster parent for girls in need of emergency
17 placement; she and her husband, Robert, were foster parents to more than 20 teenagers over the years;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Ruth Williamson began working for York County government as a volunteer
20 coordinator; she then became director of a community court alternatives program for the county,
21 developing programs to help troubled youths; and

22 WHEREAS, a belief that creating a caring and structured environment would help young people turn
23 their lives around was a hallmark of Ruth Williamson's efforts to help boys and girls in need in York
24 County; and

25 WHEREAS, Ruth Williamson also founded a family-oriented group home for foster children; the
26 innovative program supported parents as they worked to maintain custody of their children, and foster
27 parents also were closely involved in the efforts to reunite families; and

28 WHEREAS, Ruth Williamson started a work-hour community service program to serve as an
29 alternative to incarceration for teenagers, and toward the end of her career, she began working for a
30 group home for boys; and

31 WHEREAS, in honor of her work with young people, Ruth Williamson was named Volunteer of the
32 Year in 1976 by the Volunteer Action Center, and in 1983, she received the Exchange Club of York's
33 Crime Prevention Award—the first woman and the first non-law-enforcement officer to be so honored;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, Ruth Williamson enjoyed her involvement with the Exchange Club of York, a local
36 branch of a national service organization; she was the group's first female president; and

37 WHEREAS, predeceased by her husband, Robert, Ruth Williamson will be greatly missed and fondly
38 remembered by her children, Robby, Kirk, Wendy, and Mark, and their families; her mother, Mary
39 Mahler; and many other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

40 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby
41 note with great sadness the loss of Nora Ruth Williamson of Seaford, who was dedicated to helping
42 children in need in York County as a volunteer, foster parent, and employee of York County
43 government, a longtime member of the Exchange Club of York service organization, and a devoted wife
44 and mother; and, be it

45 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution
46 for presentation to the family of Nora Ruth Williamson as an expression of the General Assembly's
47 respect for her memory.

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