

# 1994 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1005

*Commending Donald E. Williams.*

Agreed to by the Senate, May 11, 1994

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, May 11, 1994

WHEREAS, Donald E. Williams, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) since 1980, will retire on May 1, 1994; and

WHEREAS, Don Williams began his distinguished 36-year career with DMV in 1958 after honorably serving in the United States Air Force and subsequently attending National Business College in Roanoke, Virginia, where he majored in accounting; and

WHEREAS, prior to his appointment as Commissioner by Governor John Dalton, Don Williams worked his way up through the ranks from Safety Responsibility Evaluator to Assistant to the Chief Accountant, Chief Accountant, Assistant Director of Administrative Services, DMV Fiscal Officer, Assistant Commissioner for Administrative Operations and Deputy Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, under Don Williams' leadership, DMV has been recognized as one of the most outstanding motor vehicle administrative agencies in the nation, described as an innovator among government agencies in *Governing* magazine, and selected as a semifinalist in the Harvard Innovations in State and Local Government 1994 Awards Program; and

WHEREAS, during Don Williams' administration, DMV has made customer service a priority and pioneered dozens of innovative service strategies including, but not limited to, extended hours of service, express offices located in shopping malls, mail-in vehicle registration renewals, electronic automobile dealer agents, mobile licensing units and digitized driver's licenses; and

WHEREAS, with Don Williams' counsel, DMV has developed one of the most progressive employee training, motivation and recognition programs among government agencies; and

WHEREAS, with Don Williams' encouragement and support, DMV has made significant contributions in fighting motor vehicle-related crimes, such as odometer tampering, auto theft, vehicle sales by unlicensed dealers and fuels tax evasion; and

WHEREAS, during Don Williams' tenure, DMV has played a key role in decreasing motor vehicle-related deaths and injuries on Virginia's highways, helping to reduce the fatality rate from 2.8 deaths per 100 million miles travelled to 1.33 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles travelled in 1993 and raising the state's seat belt usage rate to 72 percent; and

WHEREAS, Don Williams serves his community as a member of various civic organizations, including the United Way Board of Trustees and the March of Dimes Executive and Advisory Committee, and as Chairman of the United Way State Government Campaign; and

WHEREAS, Don Williams has served with distinction in the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators since 1974, attaining the position of President in 1993; and

WHEREAS, his illustrious service has earned Don Williams innumerable awards and recognition for his dedicated service including the 1993 National Committee Against Drunk Driving Certificate of Commendation; Executive of the Year in 1985-86; Free Enterprise Award, presented in 1984 by the Virginia Independent Automobile Dealers Association and the National Independent Automobile Dealers Association; and March of Dimes Distinguished Volunteer Leadership Award in 1980 and 1984; and

WHEREAS, Don Williams has dedicated his career to bringing the highest standards of professionalism to state government and the motor vehicle industry; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of his distinguished career are evidence of his genuine concern for the welfare and safety of the citizens of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Don Williams has exemplified the true spirit of public service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly applaud Donald E. Williams for the completion of more than three decades of outstanding service to the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Donald E. Williams as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for his meritorious service and best wishes for a joyful and well-earned retirement.

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