

By: Representative Fielding

HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. ARTIS WILLIAMS AND IN
RECOGNITION OF HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF
ARKANSAS AND HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.

Subtitle

IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. ARTIS
WILLIAMS AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS
AND HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, Mr. Artis Williams, born on November 5, 1935, of Stephens, Arkansas, died on Wednesday, January 9, 2013, at the age of seventy-seven (77) years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was the ninth of fourteen (14) children born to Martha and John Williams, Sr., both of whom preceded him in death; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was a 1957 graduate of Carver High School in Stephens, Arkansas; received a bachelor's degree in biological science from the Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical & Normal College, now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; obtained a master's degree in science education from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee; and studied at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois, and Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams taught school in the Stephens Public School



District for thirty-four (34) years before retirement, and subsequently taught for two (2) years part-time in the McNeil School District; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams served as Past Master of St. John Lodge #456 F&AM Prince Hall Affiliated, Past Commander in Chief of J.C. Corbin Consistory No. 204, member of the 33rd Degree of The United Supreme Council Prince Hall Affiliation Southern Jurisdiction, member of the Ouachita Conservation District, member of the Farm Bureau Insurance Board, member of the Buena Vista Water Association, and President of Carver High School Reunion Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was a volunteer at the Stephens Community Outreach Center; as a member of the St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church, he served in the ministry of Deacon and as chair for many years and as a youth Sunday school teacher; and initiated the Stephens High School Senior Day Program held at St. Stephens Baptist Church annually at 6:00 p.m. on the first Sunday in May. This program has spanned over thirty (30) years and was designed to exhort and honor students as they embark upon adulthood; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Deacon Williams accomplished much as a family man, an educator, and a pillar of his community; although he achieved much, he maintained his quiet, temperate, poised, and spiritual standard across every walk of life; and this common thread ran across every aspect of his life; and

WHEREAS, Deacon Williams is survived by his wife of forty-seven (47) years, Ruby Sims Williams of the home; one son, Cedric Williams of Sherwood, Arkansas; two daughters, Cecila Williams of Newport, Arkansas, and Andria Williams of Guy, Arkansas; two sisters, Louise Manley of Texarkana, Arkansas, and Ellen Futch of Detroit, Michigan; two brothers, Johnnie Williams of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Lonnie Williams of Stephens, Arkansas; and two granddaughters, Tyra Williams and Sydni Williams, both of Sherwood, Arkansas; and a host of friends; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives wishes to publicly recognize Deacon Williams' contributions to the State of Arkansas and his local

community,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognizes Mr. Artis Williams' commitment, hard work, dedication, and service to the State of Arkansas and his local community, and commends him for his contributions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individual members of the House of Representatives hereby express sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Williams, and upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to his family by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.