

House Resolution 322

By: Representatives Brooks of the 54th, McKinney of the 51st, Mobley of the 69th, Maddox of the 72nd, Seay of the 93rd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life of the Reverend Hosea L. Williams; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Reverend Hosea L. Williams was an activist fueled by compassionate
3 understanding and raw courage whose activism was always in service to God, his family, his
4 people, the nation, and all of humanity; and
- 5 WHEREAS, he was born on January 5, 1926, in Vिलence, Florida, to LaCenia Williams and
6 William Wiggins and grew up in rural Attapulcus, Georgia; and
- 7 WHEREAS, after graduating from Hutto High School in Bainbridge, Georgia, he earned a
8 bachelor's degree in chemistry from Morris Brown College and completed graduate work
9 at Atlanta University; and
- 10 WHEREAS, he received the Purple Heart as a staff sergeant in the United States Army
11 during World War II; and
- 12 WHEREAS, after completing military service, he married the late Juanita Terry Williams,
13 who during her lifetime was an educator, businesswoman, and a member of the Georgia
14 House of Representatives; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Hosea Williams began his career as a "Freedom Fighter" and civil rights activist
16 when he led the integration of the south's first passenger train that ran from Savannah to
17 Atlanta; and
- 18 WHEREAS, his career spanned nearly four decades and assumed an international scale; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1971, as international ambassadors for the Southern Christian Leadership
2 Conference, Reverend Williams and his wife completed a Worldwide Brotherhood Tour of
3 19 countries, including ten African nations, India, Vietnam, and the People's Republic of
4 China; and

5 WHEREAS, it was in leading the historic march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on
6 "Bloody Sunday" in 1965 that Hosea's raw courage was most evident, and that pivotal event
7 was instrumental in securing passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act; and

8 WHEREAS, elected in 1974 as the representative from the 54th District, he served with
9 distinction as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives until 1983; and

10 WHEREAS, because of his relentless championing of the rights of the voiceless, Reverend
11 Williams was elected councilman for the 5th District of the City of Atlanta, serving from
12 1986 to 1990; and from 1991 to 1994, he served as 3rd District Commissioner for DeKalb
13 County; and

14 WHEREAS, he was the founder and CEO of the Southeastern Chemical Manufacturing and
15 Distribution Corporation and later president and CEO of Hosea's Bonding Company; and

16 WHEREAS, as chief executive of "Hosea's Feed the Hungry and Homeless in Metro
17 Atlanta," founded in 1970, Reverend Williams assumed responsibility for feeding thousands
18 of Atlanta's homeless during the holidays each year; and

19 WHEREAS, a recipient of hundreds of honors and awards for his leadership,
20 humanitarianism, and courage, he was a member of Phi Beta Sigma, the National Order of
21 Elks and Free Accepted Masons, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American
22 Veterans, and the American Legion; and

23 WHEREAS, a larger-than-life personality, he was loved, supported, and will be deeply
24 missed by many, but his loss is especially deeply felt by his seven children: Dr. Barbara Jean
25 Williams-Emerson, Elisabeth Williams-Omilami, André Jerome Williams, Attorney Yolanda
26 Williams-Favors, Torey Kenyatta Williams, Juanita Collier, and Hyron Lorenzo Williams.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body honor the life of the remarkable Reverend Hosea L. Williams, who

1 unselfishly sought to empower others with his magnanimous works and who never stopped
2 fighting for freedom.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
4 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Reverend
5 Hosea L. Williams.