

House Resolution 323

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 Mrs. Juanita Williams; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Juanita Elizabeth Terry Williams had a spirit and heart large enough to
3 encompass everything she loved, including her family, her home, her plants, her birds and
4 dogs, her collection of African American and civil rights documents and artifacts, the Atlanta
5 Braves, and chocolate cake; and
- 6 WHEREAS, as a civic leader, entrepreneur, educator, activist, scholar, and writer she made
7 many quiet, yet significant, meaningful contributions to the lives of the people of the State
8 of Georgia, especially in her hometown of Atlanta and in Savannah where she lived for
9 several years; and
- 10 WHEREAS, during a civic career spanning nearly 30 years, Mrs. Williams was the first
11 black woman to run for public office in Georgia since Reconstruction and the first black
12 woman to run for state-wide office; and
- 13 WHEREAS, in 1985, she was elected as the Georgia State Representative for House District
14 54 and served her Kirkwood, Edgewood, and East Lake constituents for four terms before
15 retirement; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Williams was also one of the first black American representatives to enter
17 the People's Republic of China as part of an international Brotherhood Tour that also covered
18 ten African countries, parts of Asia, and Ireland; and
- 19 WHEREAS, she received numerous awards and accolades for her accomplishments and was
20 a member of such organizations as Delta Sigma Theta, Iota Phi Lambda, the Writers Guild
21 of America, SCLC, NAACP, and the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce; and
- 22 WHEREAS, of all her achievements, she was most happy in her role as wife, mother, and

1 grandmother; and

2 WHEREAS, during her 40 year marriage to the Reverend Hosea L. Williams, she raised five
3 children: Dr. Barbara Williams Emerson, Mrs. Elisabeth Williams Omilami, the late Hosea
4 Lorenzo Williams, Jr., André Jerome Williams, and Attorney Yolanda Williams-Favors; and

5 WHEREAS, Juanita Terry Williams grew up in Flipper A.M.E. Church, was a founding
6 member of the Church of the Masters Presbyterian Church, attended West Hunter Baptist
7 Church, and led a righteous, spiritual life until its end on August 23, 2000.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
9 the members of this body honor the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Juanita Elizabeth Terry
10 Williams, a great citizen of this state whose contributions to society are of lasting value and
11 who is greatly missed.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
13 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mrs. Juanita
14 Elizabeth Terry Williams.