

## House Resolution 409

By: Representatives Brooks of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Mobley of the 69<sup>th</sup>, McClinton of the 68<sup>th</sup>, Reed of the 52<sup>nd</sup>, McKinney of the 51<sup>st</sup> and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the Reverend Hosea L. Williams and Mrs. Juanita Williams and directing that a  
2 portrait of the two of them be placed in the State Capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Reverend Hosea Williams and Juanita Elizabeth Terry Williams were  
4 married for 40 years; and

5 WHEREAS, theirs was a dynamic union of two people motivated by a genuine love for  
6 humanity and a consuming desire to change the world; and

7 WHEREAS, the Reverend Hosea L. Williams was an activist fueled by compassionate  
8 understanding and raw courage whose activism over the course of a career that spanned four  
9 decades was always in service to God, his family, his people, the nation, and all of humanity;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, as a civic leader, entrepreneur, educator, activist, scholar, and writer Mrs.  
12 Juanita Williams made many quiet, yet significant and meaningful contributions to the lives  
13 of the people of the State of Georgia, especially in her hometown of Atlanta and in Savannah  
14 where she lived for several years; and

15 WHEREAS, during a civic career spanning nearly 30 years, Mrs. Williams was the first  
16 black woman to run for public office in Georgia since Reconstruction and the first black  
17 woman to run for state-wide office; and

18 WHEREAS, Reverend Williams served with distinction as a member of the Georgia House  
19 of Representatives from 1974 to 1983, representing District 54; and

20 WHEREAS, Mrs. Williams was elected to serve House District 54 in 1985 and did so  
21 honorably for four terms until her retirement; and

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

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

7 WHEREAS, in 1971, as international ambassadors for the Southern Christian Leadership  
8 Conference, Hosea and Juanita Williams completed a Worldwide Brotherhood Tour of 19  
9 countries, including ten African nations, India, Vietnam, and the People's Republic of China;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, both Hosea Williams and Juanita Williams served the citizens of the State of  
12 Georgia with great effectiveness and unparalleled dedication and it is only fitting and proper  
13 that they be duly recognized and honored for decades of service in devotion to timeless  
14 principles.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 GEORGIA this body honors the Reverend Hosea L. Williams and Mrs. Juanita Williams and  
17 directs that a portrait of the two of them be placed in an appropriate location in the State  
18 Capitol.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
20 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Reverend  
21 Hosea Williams and Mrs. Juanita Williams.