

By: Miles

H.C.R. No. 275

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, With the passing of Herriford Williams on May 3,
2 2007, the State of Texas bid farewell to a respected business and
3 civic leader whose dedication to helping others made a significant
4 contribution to the Lone Star State during his 35 years as a Texas
5 resident; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in Brewton, Alabama, in 1935, "John" Williams
7 answered his country's call to duty during the Korean War, serving
8 as a chaplain's aide in the U.S. Army; after completing his studies
9 at Hope College, he became one of the earliest African American
10 sales executives hired by Procter & Gamble; a resident of Michigan
11 for a number of years, Mr. Williams helped found the Palmer Drug
12 Abuse Program in Detroit in the late 1960s; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams and his family moved to Houston in 1972
14 when he gave up his successful corporate career to become a
15 franchise owner for the McDonald's Corporation; the first African
16 American to operate such an enterprise in Houston, Mr. Williams
17 chose to base his three restaurants in economically depressed
18 neighborhoods in the city, providing much-needed jobs to area
19 residents; and

20 WHEREAS, Emerging as a role model and a civic activist, Mr.
21 Williams committed himself to bettering his community and worked to
22 empower Houston's African American citizens and to achieve greater
23 social justice; his positive and wide-ranging efforts received
24 recognition from local government and law enforcement agencies, and

1 in time his wisdom and insight were sought by Texas governors,
2 members of congress, and a long list of other elected officials; and

3 WHEREAS, With a commitment to serving others that was based
4 in his spiritual faith, Mr. Williams was a member of the board of
5 directors of St. Timothy's United Methodist Church in Houston for
6 many years; following his retirement in 2000, he and his wife,
7 Doris, moved to New Waverly, and he became a prominent member of St.
8 Paul's United Methodist Church in Conroe; his retirement years were
9 also devoted to counseling at-risk youth at the Gulf Coast Trade
10 Center, and he continued this service until his final days;
11 compassionate actions of this type pervaded all aspects of John
12 Williams's life, and his devotion to those in need will be long
13 remembered and greatly missed; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby pay tribute to the life of Herriford "John" Williams and
16 extend deepest condolences to the members of his family: to his
17 wife of 46 years, Doris Williams; to his sons, Kevin and Patrick
18 Williams; to his grandchildren, Marie and Moses Williams; to his
19 brothers, the Reverend Samuel Williams and John Williams; to his
20 cousin, Leonard Mobley; to his close friend, Tyris Johnson; and to
21 his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
24 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
25 John Williams.