

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 298

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Bert Williams for his many contributions to the City of El Paso; and

WHEREAS, A former mayor and councilman for the City of El Paso, Mr. Williams is known for taking principled stands in the face of opposition and maintaining his determination to follow the dictates of his conscience; and

WHEREAS, In 1962, while a member of the city council, Mr. Williams introduced an ordinance banning discrimination in the city's motels, hotels, movie theaters, and restaurants; he helped override the mayor's veto, making El Paso the first city in the South to pass an antidiscrimination ordinance, two years before the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure as mayor, from 1971 to 1973, Mr. Williams became one of the first to challenge the American Smelting and Refining Company, in response to the discovery of high levels of lead in children who lived near the facility; the company was required to monitor and test soil and air quality, and the nearby community of Smeltertown was closed; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Mr. Williams has been a passionate advocate for fair and equal treatment of the underserved and underrepresented, and he has been a dedicated leader in the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams has served the City of El Paso with integrity and compassion, and he is truly deserving of recognition for his many contributions to its growth and progress; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby commend Bert Williams on his longtime commitment to making El Paso a better city in which to live, work, and raise a family; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Shapleigh

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 23, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate