

By: Giddings

H.R. No. 1511

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Locally owned and operated enterprises that build a
2 record of dependability and longevity enjoy a special degree of
3 esteem in their communities, and the Williams Chicken chain of
4 restaurants in North Texas is celebrating its 30th anniversary in
5 2017; and

6 WHEREAS, Company founder and CEO Hiawatha Williams got his
7 start in the restaurant business when he went to work for a
8 nationwide fast-food chain while attending Paul Quinn College; he
9 remained with that company for 18 years before striking out on his
10 own in 1987 and opening the first Williams Chicken location in South
11 Dallas; and

12 WHEREAS, In the three decades since, Williams Chicken has
13 grown to include 40 stores, which provide jobs for more than 500
14 employees; these restaurants, with their distinctive yellow and
15 orange color scheme, have become popular destinations for fans of
16 fried chicken across North Texas; and

17 WHEREAS, A man of strong religious faith, Mr. Williams has
18 served as a mentor for many of his employees, and he also supports a
19 number of community outreach efforts to benefit young people and
20 education; as a pioneering African American entrepreneur, he has
21 been featured in such publications as *Black Enterprise*, *Our Texas*,
22 and the *Dallas Business Journal*, which presented him with a
23 Minority Business Leader Award; and

24 WHEREAS, By creating jobs and helping to strengthen the

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1 economic environment of North Texas, Williams Chicken is
2 contributing to the vitality of that region, and it is fitting that
3 the anniversary of its founding be recognized; now, therefore, be
4 it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
6 Legislature hereby commemorate the 30th anniversary of Williams
7 Chicken and extend to Hiawatha Williams and everyone associated
8 with the restaurants sincere best wishes for continued success;
9 and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for Mr. Williams as an expression of high regard by the
12 Texas House of Representatives.