87R30011 BPG-D

By:  Gervin-Hawkins H.R. No. 1816

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, San Antonio businessman Charles E. Williams Sr. has earned the admiration of innumerable people as a pillar of the East Side community; and

WHEREAS, Born in Granger in 1937, Charles Williams grew up on a farm and excelled as an athlete at the Crispus Attucks High School; after graduating from Tyler Barber College, he moved to San Antonio and rented a chair at Taylor's Barber Shop; he opened his own establishment six years later and then became the first African American to buy property on W. W. White Road; active in the civil rights movement, he took part in marches, picket lines, and lunch counter demonstrations; he also advocated for the renaming of Nebraska Street in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams opened many successful businesses over the years, including a beauty supply store, a catering company, and a car wash, and he invested in residential real estate, as well; in the early 1990s, he founded Williams Barber College, which became an East Side institution, and he was appointed chair of the State Board of Barber Examiners; he mentored many aspiring entrepreneurs and eventually sold the school to a younger barber; dedicated to the community, he served on the city's zoning commission; when he opened the Landmark Coffee Shop in a renovated building in 2009, he included community meeting space and displayed portraits of local luminaries who had inspired his drive for excellence; he has received numerous accolades through the years, and Charles Williams Place street is named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Charles Williams has proven himself a business and civic leader of great vision and ability, and he may reflect with pride on his successful efforts to make San Antonio's East Side an even better place for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby honor Charles E. Williams Sr. for his contributions to his community and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

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