



Introduced Version

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**HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Reverend  
Charles Williams.

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**Porter**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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20152212

2015

HC 1046/DI 84



## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Reverend Charles Williams.

*Whereas, The Reverend Charles Williams typifies a religious leader who lives "Thus sayeth the Lord" at the pulpit and in the streets;*

*Whereas, Reverend Charles Williams visualized empowering all citizens economically, educationally, politically, socially, and spiritually;*

*Whereas, Reverend Charles Williams became president of the Indiana Black Expo in 1983 and, until his death in July 2004, remained one of the most influential black leaders in Indianapolis;*

*Whereas, Under Reverend Williams' leadership, the Indiana Black Expo has become the largest and most enduring display of African American arts, culture, heritage, and history in the world;*

*Whereas, Reverend Williams started at Black Expo as a volunteer representing the mayor's office and became president of the volunteer board of directors in 1980;*

*Whereas, Reverend Williams worked with elected officials and community leaders to obtain recognition of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday in the state of Indiana;*

*Whereas, In addition to his work with Black Expo,*



*Reverend Williams also served as a special assistant to Mayor Richard Lugar and Mayor William Hudnut;*

*Whereas, Reverend Charles Williams was born in Indianapolis in 1948 and attended the city's public schools, including Crispus Attucks High School, where he was involved with the Key Club and sold doughnuts to raise money for projects;*

*Whereas, Reverend Williams moved with his family to Chicago in 1963;*

*Whereas, While in Chicago, Reverend Williams left high school and, in 1965, enlisted in the Navy, where he received his general equivalency diploma;*

*Whereas, Reverend Williams served his country for three years, including time in Vietnam, where he began his career in event planning and promotion by organizing a band competition with black soldiers performing;*

*Whereas, Reverend Williams returned to Chicago briefly in 1971 but left to enroll at Black Hawk College in Moline, Illinois;*

*Whereas, Reverend Williams left college when he was offered a job by local officials to organize the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's 1973 national convention in Indianapolis;*

*Whereas, Reverend Williams was ordained a Baptist minister in 1978 and once served as associate pastor of St. John's Missionary Baptist Church; and*

*Whereas, It is fitting and just that the Indiana Department of Transportation rename that part of Interstate 70 east from downtown to Interstate 465 as the Reverend Charles Williams Memorial Highway: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives  
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,  
the Senate concurring:*



1           SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly expresses its  
2 deepest sympathy at the loss of Reverend Charles Williams and  
3 acknowledges the many contributions he made to his city, state, and  
4 country. His death has left a void that will never be filled.

5           SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of  
6 Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution to the family of  
7 Reverend Charles Williams and the commissioner of the Indiana  
8 Department of Transportation.

