

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 47

BY REPRESENTATIVE GALLOT

A RESOLUTION

To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of John Williams, Jr., former mayor of Grambling.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Louisiana House of Representatives have learned of the death of John Williams, Jr., on Sunday, May 22, 2011, at the age of seventy-six; and

WHEREAS, from 1995 until 2002, Mr. Williams served with great productivity and effectiveness as mayor of the town of Grambling; and

WHEREAS, born on July 30, 1934, in Baton Rouge, Mr. Williams was the son of John Williams, Sr., and Johnnie B. Williams; and

WHEREAS, at a young age, Mr. Williams was baptized at the New Bethel Baptist Church in Baton Rouge by the late Reverend Peter Nelson, and he later joined the New Rocky Valley Baptist Church, where he was a member until his death; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was educated in the public schools of Baton Rouge and graduated in 1952 from McKinley High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams served his country with valor in the United States Army as an active soldier in the European theater, and he received an honorable discharge; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to the United States, Mr. Williams attended Grambling College, now Grambling State University, and played football under the legendary Coach Eddie G. Robinson; and

WHEREAS, later, Mr. Williams met and married Catherine Jones of Minden, and after he graduated from college, he was hired to teach in the Ouachita Parish Public School System, where he served with dedication and excellence for many years; and

WHEREAS, during his two terms as mayor of Grambling, Mr. Williams made highly significant contributions to the community and to his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams served with distinction as a member of the Grambling Chamber of Commerce, the Pi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the North Louisiana Medical Board, the Lincoln Parish Advisory Committee, and many Grambling State University committees, and he was also an executive of the Benevolent Funeral Home; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was preceded in death by his wife and parents; three sisters, Alice Susie Williams, Bettie Gean Roberson, and Esther Louise Eames; and two brothers-in-law, Reverend David Roberson and Jimmie T. Scott; he is survived by his sister, Georgia Williams Scott; one brother-in-law, Andrew V. Eames; five nephews, Keith D. Williams, Kenneth D. Roberson, Kenton A. Eames, Kevin B. Roberson, and Kent M. Roberson; a special niece, Kenna Morgan Franklin; and a very dear friend, Elaine DeBerry; and

WHEREAS, the death of Mr. Williams has left a tremendous void in his community and has created a genuine sense of sorrow in the many individuals who mourn the loss of this wonderful gentleman whose memory shall forever remain alive in their minds and hearts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of John Williams, Jr., former mayor of Grambling, and does hereby recognize his singular and momentous contributions and achievements, which will long continue to be a source of great pride for his family, his friends, the town of Grambling, Lincoln Parish, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of John Williams, Jr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES