

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 566

By Cobb T

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the ministry of the Reverend Dr. William W. Williamson, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. William W. Williamson, Jr., served the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a Teaching Elder and Ordained Minister of the Word and Sacrament for thirty-nine years and his impact upon the lives of the members of his congregation and the communities he served cannot be overestimated in his countless celebrations of life, through marriage ceremonies and funerals; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Williamson served with energy, intelligence, imagination and love, using his talents and his gifts of music, teaching, preaching the Word, administering Baptisms and the Lord's Supper, and prayer with and for God's people; and

WHEREAS, during Reverend William Williamson's twenty year tenure as Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, Tennessee, from June 5, 1989, until his honorable retirement on August 31, 2009, his diligence, energy, extraordinary ability, and tireless efforts on behalf of his Lord through his congregation merit honors and special recognition; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. William W. Williamson was responsible for his church's quality of life and its relationships, which commended the Gospel and communicated its joy through the sharing of meals, fellowship, and friendship; and

WHEREAS, with the Ruling Elders and the Session, the Reverend Dr. William W. Williamson encouraged the people in the worship and service of God; led as Moderator of the

Session in the governing of the congregation; and through Faith reached out in concern and service, working toward the reconciliation of the Word; and

WHEREAS, with the deacons, Reverend William W. Williamson shared in the ministries of sympathy, witness, and service, seeing to the needs of widows, orphans, his community, and the world; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many years as a humble servant of God, the Reverend Dr. Williamson has demonstrated the utmost ability, compassion, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his friends, his family, and the congregation of First Presbyterian Church; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the ministry of the Reverend Dr. William W. Williamson, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living a Christian life with courage and conviction as we humbly offer our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.