

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 578

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize LaNell Williams upon her impressive academic achievements.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to academic excellence, have distinguished themselves in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, LaNell Williams is one such exceptional student who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all of her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, through diligent study, steady composure during examinations, and steadfast commitment of time and talent, Ms. Williams has achieved outstanding academic success and has joined the ranks of the best and brightest students in Tennessee and our country; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 City University School of Liberal Arts Valedictorian, LaNell Williams was the first person to graduate from that noble institution, and with over \$3 million in scholarship opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in her remarkable high school career, Ms. Williams earned an exemplary 3.9 grade point average while participating in numerous extracurricular activities, including rendering sterling service as the Jefferson Award Leader, Editor of the City University Newspaper, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Tutor, and member of the Memphis Challenge Class of 2011, Bridge Builders Class of 2011, Memphis Prep Class of 2011, City University Book Club, Peace Jam, Go Green Club, Art Club, Year Book, and Project Scholars for Political and Environmental Change; and

WHEREAS, currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in either Chemistry or Physics, Ms. Williams is a Student of Color Representative at Wesleyan University, where she enjoys being

an active and important member of Ujamaa, the Praise Dance Team, and the Wesleyan Christian Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, during her storied academic career, she has also participated in a wide range of scholastic experiences, including the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Biomedical Symposiums, Northfield Mount Hermon School, Brigham Young University Independent Studies Program, Christian Brothers University Dual Enrollment Program, Smith College Summer Science and Engineering Program, and Girls in Manufacturing with the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, strongly committed to community and public service, LaNell has endeavored to serve her fellow citizens through volunteer work with the Children's Museum of Memphis, Delta Fair, Influence One Neighborhood Cleanup, Miss Black Memphis Pageant, Bridge Builders, St. Augustine Elementary School, Memphis Challenge, MS Bike Run, and Books to Birth; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her singular achievements in academics, Ms. Williams has received numerous awards and honors, including the Academic All-Star Award from Cellular South, Memphis and Shelby County Optimist Club Award, 5A's Club Award, Memphis Catholic Excellent Leadership Award, and Books to Birth Volunteer Award; she also received the Sam Walton Scholarship, was a member of the National Honors Society, and was named a Ron Brown Scholar's Captain, Outstanding African-American Student, and Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholar; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, this highly talented young woman was honored by the Shelby County Commission, and the Memphis City Council named August 16th "LaNell Williams Day" in her honor; and

WHEREAS, in addition to excelling in the academic arena, Ms. Williams has also amassed an impressive employment resume, having served with acumen and alacrity as a Page with the Tennessee General Assembly, a Graphic Artist and Junior Reporter Intern with *The Commercial Appeal*, and an Intern with the ICA First Supreme Trust Company; and

WHEREAS, LaNell Williams's display of intellectual aptitude and ambition surely bodes well for her future success; and

WHEREAS, her noteworthy achievements are a tremendous source of pride for her family, her school, and her community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Williams's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and honor LaNell Williams on her impressive academic achievements and extend to her our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

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