

## House Resolution 708

By: Representatives Jackson of the 165<sup>th</sup>, Westbrook of the 163<sup>rd</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>,  
Petrea of the 166<sup>th</sup>, and Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Dr. Thomas E. Williams upon his retirement; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Thomas E. Williams has demonstrated his commitment to  
4 teaching the Gospel, witnessing Christ through word and deed, and addressing the physical,  
5 psychological, intellectual, and spiritual needs of others; and

6 WHEREAS, he has served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
7 States Army, becoming the first Black officer in the 283rd Combat Communication  
8 Squadron and retiring at the rank of major after deployment in Vietnam and Germany; and

9 WHEREAS, following his military service, he pursued higher education at Savannah State  
10 College and dedicated innumerable hours of his time and energy toward organizing the  
11 Wesleyan Gospel Choir and serving as president of the Student Government Association; and

12 WHEREAS, he first answered the call to ministry in 1984 and was ordained in August 1985  
13 before he was called to pastor the First African Baptist Church of East Savannah, where he  
14 served with distinction for 36 years; and

15 WHEREAS, he has further served his community as part of the Savannah Chatham County  
16 Board of Education Transportation Department, and he now serves as the first vice president  
17 of the Berean Baptist Association as well as a member of both American Legion Post 500  
18 and the Alpha Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi; and

19 WHEREAS, whether the task is preparing a sermon, visiting the sick, counseling the  
20 troubled, baptizing a new believer, or acting as a theologian, educator, administrator, or  
21 humanitarian, Reverend Dr. Thomas E. Williams has shown the energy, devotion, and  
22 commitment truly reflective of divine guidance; and

23 WHEREAS, the unmatched spiritual assistance offered by Reverend Dr. Thomas E. Williams  
24 is a source of strength and direction for persons in all walks of life; and

25 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to recognize the outstanding accomplishments  
26 of the dynamic Christian ministry of this devout and pious man.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
28 the members of this body recognize and commend Reverend Dr. Thomas E. Williams upon  
29 the grand occasion of his retirement and extend best wishes for future health and happiness.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
31 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
32 Reverend Dr. Thomas E. Williams.