

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 937

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Keith O. Williams, Third Annual Living Legend Awards honoree.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated their time and energies toward enhancing the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Keith O. Williams, who is being honored at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards in recognition of the leadership and service he has provided to the people of Memphis and Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, the Third Annual Living Legend Awards ceremony, which honors Harriet Tubman and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis on March 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Keith Williams grew up in the Magnolia-Castalia Heights community and learned about the importance of public service and civic responsibility from his parents at an early age; and

WHEREAS, intent on serving mankind, Mr. Williams began his teaching career with Knoxville City Schools in 1974 and pursued his calling as an educator for forty-four years; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, he was elected to the board of directors of the Memphis Education Association (MEA), and in 2011, he began serving as the last president of MEA prior to the merger of the city and county school organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams then served as the first president of the newly formed Memphis-Shelby County Education Association (MSCEA), in which position he was a fierce advocate and inspired leader of more than 6,500 teachers in the county; and

WHEREAS, today, he continues his illustrious legacy in education as the executive director of MSCEA; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams gives back to his community and profession as a member of Brown Baptist Church, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and the National Council of Teachers of English; and

WHEREAS, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in English from Knoxville College, his master's degree in curriculum and school administration from Trevecca Nazarene University, and his educational specialist degree in curriculum and school administration from the University of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, he is fortunate to share love and companionship with his wife of forty-seven years, Gloria Sherfield Williams; their children, Dr. Mialika Williams Watkins and Keith Chad Williams; and their grandchildren, Micah Watkins and Moriah Watkins; and

WHEREAS, Keith Williams is an exemplary individual; his commitment to excellence and community service is representative of the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Keith O. Williams upon his recognition at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards, applaud his outstanding community leadership, and extend our best wishes for 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.