



HR0291

LRB102 18183 MST 25752 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to commend Frank Williams, community
4 activist, fair housing advocate, and successful real estate
5 professional, for his lifetime of diligent work for equal
6 rights for homeowners; and

7 WHEREAS, Frank Williams was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas
8 and raised in Flint, Michigan; he and his family moved to
9 Chicago in 1962; he took a job with the postal service and
10 began studying accounting; in 1965, he and his wife, Joanne,
11 began shopping for a home, and he took a real estate course to
12 feel better equipped for the process; he subsequently took the
13 real estate exam, passed, and joined the now defunct Midwest
14 Realty; and

15 WHEREAS, Frank Williams became a REALTOR in 1969 and
16 opened FJ Williams Realty two years later; for decades, he has
17 advocated for fair housing legislation in Springfield and
18 Chicago, and following the civil rights movement, he found
19 homes for black buyers in historically white areas on the
20 southwest side, including his own neighborhood of Beverly; he
21 persisted in his efforts to desegregate these neighborhoods
22 despite ongoing harassment and threats, including a bomb being
23 detonated outside his front door; and

1 WHEREAS, In addition to his service as the second
2 African-American president of the Chicago Association of
3 REALTORS (CAR), Frank Williams served as the president of the
4 Dearborn Realtist Board from 1973 to 1974; he was president of
5 CAR from 1989 to 1990, where he championed fair housing and
6 diversity; and

7 WHEREAS, Frank Williams was president of the Southside
8 Chicago branch of the National Association for the Advancement
9 of Colored People (NAACP) from 1979 to 1985, during a time when
10 affordable housing and integration ranked among the top real
11 estate issues in the city and suburbs; during his term with the
12 NAACP, he helped create a monitoring program to oversee
13 housing discrimination and placed a strong emphasis on the
14 hiring and placement of minorities in the real estate
15 industry; his emphasis on mentorship, education, and the
16 hiring and placement of minorities in the real estate business
17 truly helped to advance and strengthen the real estate
18 industry in Illinois; and

19 WHEREAS, Frank Williams was chosen by The Illinois
20 Association of REALTORS in 1991 to hold the first
21 Distinguished Member Award for Community Service, and the
22 following year, he was named CAR's REALTOR of the Year; during
23 this time, he led efforts to create a \$25,000 scholarship for

1 minority students to pursue a career in real estate; in 2017,
2 he was inducted into the Chicago Association of Realtors Hall
3 of Fame and was awarded the 2017 Gale Cincotta Community
4 Visionary Award by Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago,
5 which is presented annually to a person who exemplifies
6 leadership, innovation, and passion in making their community
7 a better place to live; in addition to receiving numerous
8 prestigious awards, he was appointed to serve on the
9 Affordable Housing Task Force and the Real Estate Services
10 Advisory Council by former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley; and

11 WHEREAS, Frank Williams has been a vigorous supporter of
12 community action groups seeking social change; he has served
13 as a real estate educator and a board member for numerous
14 national and local housing associations; he has offered
15 unparalleled compassion and commitment in all of his efforts
16 to serve his community, the State, and the nation; therefore,
17 be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we commend Frank Williams, community activist, fair housing
21 advocate, and successful real estate professional, for his
22 lifetime of diligent work for equal rights for homeowners; and
23 be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Frank Williams as a symbol of our respect and
3 esteem.