



SR0499

LRB102 19981 LAW 28766 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of James Keith "Whip" Williams of
4 Springfield, who passed away on August 19, 2021; and

5 WHEREAS, Jim Williams was born in Lafayette, Indiana to
6 Dr. James E. Williams and Lucinda Helen Keith Williams on
7 January 30, 1934; he served in the U.S. Navy from 1953 to 1957,
8 where he was stationed on Guam and at the Seabee facility at
9 Port Hueneme, California, and he completed his service as a
10 petty officer first class; he graduated from Purdue University
11 in West Lafayette, Indiana in 1960, where he majored in
12 journalism and was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity and
13 Student Journalism Society; he was also a tuba player and
14 vocalist with the Salty Dogs, a student jazz band; and

15 WHEREAS, Jim Williams became a reporter for the Danville
16 Commercial-News; he was then a reporter for the Rockford
17 Register-Republic and Morning Star from 1963 to 1973, where he
18 served as the newspapers' municipal government reporter and
19 political editor before becoming the daily general-interest
20 columnist; and

21 WHEREAS, Jim Williams received an Illinois Press
22 Association first place award in 1965 for a four-part series

1 exposing widespread irregularities in Rockford municipal
2 purchasing, resulting in the passage of a centralized
3 purchasing ordinance for the city; he also won an Illinois
4 Associated Press second place award in 1969 as a co-author of a
5 five-part series exploring the impact of Alabama Governor
6 George Wallace's candidacy in the presidential race; he was
7 cited by the American Political Science Association in 1970
8 for excellence in public affairs reporting for a series of
9 political columns tracking the issues during Illinois' 1970
10 Constitutional Convention; and

11 WHEREAS, Jim Williams served as press secretary to
12 Illinois Comptroller George W. Lindberg from 1973 to 1977; he
13 served as assistant press secretary to Illinois Governor James
14 R. Thompson from 1977 to 1981, followed by ten years as the
15 governor's staff assistant for public safety; he was chairman
16 of the Illinois Prisoner Review Board during the eight years
17 of Governor Jim Edgar's administration; he retired in 1999;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, In 2010, Jim Williams wrote and self-published
20 the bio-discographical book Jimmie Noone: Jazz Clarinet
21 Pioneer, which included an extensive listing of Noone's
22 recorded work in the 1920s and 1930s; he also self-published
23 three detective novellas; and

1 WHEREAS, Jim Williams was a passionate collector of
2 original issue 78 rpm jazz and blues recordings, focusing
3 primarily on discs issued between 1923 and 1933; he was fond of
4 playing the tenor banjo, tuba, and piano in later years, and he
5 would occasionally play the banjo or the piano at parties and
6 sing; he enjoyed cooking for friends, particularly in
7 preparing barbecued hickory-smoked ribs and dishes with a
8 Cajun or Creole flair; and

9 WHEREAS, Jim Williams is survived by his daughter, Marne
10 Rebecca Williams; his granddaughter, Mallory Marne Jones; his
11 great-grandson; and his great-granddaughter; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
14 James Keith "Whip" Williams and extend our sincere condolences
15 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
16 it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Jim Williams as an expression of our
19 deepest sympathy.