

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF FREDERICK CLINTON
WILLIAMSON, SR.

Introduced By: Senator Harold M. Metts

Date Introduced: January 18, 2011

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of
2 Frederick Clinton Williamson Sr., a resident and well-respected citizen of the City of Providence;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Born in the City of Lowell, Massachusetts, to the late William R.
5 Williamson and Francis B. Williamson, Frederick C. Williamson Sr. was the devoted husband of
6 the late Dorothy N. Williamson, the loving father of two children, Frederick Jr. and Kenneth, and
7 the proud Grandfather of Dawn, Rick, and Michael; and

8 WHEREAS, Frederick held many statewide positions throughout his career. Following
9 work in the jewelry business and as a civilian analyst at Quonset Point Naval Air Station, where
10 after 27 years he rose to the position of Supervisor, Frederick served as Director of the Rhode
11 Island Department of Community Affairs and was appointed State of Rhode Island Historic
12 Preservation Officer, later becoming the country's longest-serving historic preservation officer;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, In addition, Frederick had been Chairman of both the Rhode Island Historic
15 Commission and the Providence Human Relations Commission, becoming founder and the first
16 President of the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society. He was a founding Trustee of the National
17 Center for Preservation Law, served on the White House- appointed National Advisory Council
18 on Historic Preservation, and was a Trustee of the Providence Preservation Society and the
19 Heritage Foundation of Rhode Island; and

1 WHEREAS, Frederick Williamson made time in his life for the betterment of his
2 community. He was past Chairman of both the Rhode Island Advisory Committee to the U.S.
3 Civil Rights Commission and the Rhode Island Committee on Discrimination in Housing, as well
4 as past President of the Urban League of Rhode Island, past member of the Providence Branch of
5 the NAACP Board of Directors, and past Vice Chairman of the Citizens United for Fair Housing;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, During his years of service, Frederick received many noteworthy awards.
8 The Navy honored his outstanding performance with presentation of the Meritorious Civilian
9 Service Award. In recognition of his work with historic preservation, Frederick received the
10 Louise du Pont Crowninshield Award, presented by the National Trust for Historic Preservation,
11 and a lifetime achievement award from the National Conference of State Historic Preservation
12 Officers; and

13 WHEREAS, A distinguished Rhode Islander, Frederick Williamson was inducted into the
14 Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in 1981 and was labeled a “national treasure” by the
15 National Trust for Historic Preservation; and

16 WHEREAS, Even though we are diminished by this loss and mourn the passing of
17 Frederick C. Williamson Sr., so must we celebrate the spirit, generosity, and courage with which
18 he lived every day of his life; and

19 WHEREAS, A devoted husband, father, friend, and a respected defender of human
20 rights, Frederick C. Williamson Sr.’s life and achievements will live on for many years to come,
21 in the memories of everyone fortunate enough to have been touched by the quality of this
22 remarkable gentleman; now, therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
24 hereby expresses our deepest sympathies to the entire Williamson Family on the passing of
25 Frederick Clinton Williamson Sr.; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
27 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Frederick C. Williamson Jr., and Kenneth E.
28 Williamson.

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