

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 363

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Beverly Williams-Cleaves, one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women of 2019.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Dr. Beverly Williams-Cleaves, who has been named one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women by the Memphis Inter-Denominational (MID) Fellowship, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the MID Fellowship recognizes the importance of honoring those women who have demonstrated excellence in their respective fields; the women recognized are judged on the basis of being a Woman of Faith, a Woman of Prayer, a Woman of Good Works, a Woman of Dedication, and a Woman of Leadership with the Courage of Esther; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the MID Fellowship requested nominations of Memphis and Shelby County women who are graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and, subsequently, selected twelve outstanding women; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Beverly Williams-Cleaves was born on a farm near Mason and grew up in Memphis, where she graduated from Manassas High School; for decades, she has been a practicing pediatrician in the Memphis area and is regarded by her peers and the community alike as one of the premier practitioners in her specialty; and

WHEREAS, devoted to giving back to her community, Dr. Williams-Cleaves, along with her sister Dr. Ethelyn Williams-Neal, has established several educational assistance programs, including the John Ed and Odessa Williams Scholarship Fund at Friendship Baptist Church and the Sisters Williams 3 Scholarship Fund, both of which provide assistance to youth seeking

postsecondary education, as well as a \$50,000 John and Odessa Williams Lectureship at UT-Memphis; and

WHEREAS, nearly thirty years ago, Dr. Beverly Williams-Cleaves and her sister launched a monthly "Feed the Less Fortunate" program at Friendship Baptist Church, which has grown to include free meals, a clothes closet, and health screenings; she is also an active member of the Links, Inc., and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that Dr. Williams-Cleaves be recognized at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we congratulate Dr. Beverly Williams-Cleaves on being honored by the Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship, Inc., as one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women of 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.