

SENATE RESOLUTION 156

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Beverly Jean Williams-Cleaves of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Beverly Jean Williams-Cleaves; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Williams-Cleaves was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Mason on August 16, 1943, to John Ed and Odessa Williams, Dr. Beverly Williams-Cleaves was the youngest of three daughters. The valedictorian of Manassas High School's Class of 1961, she received her undergraduate degree from Howard University before obtaining her medical degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) in 1969; and

WHEREAS, specializing in internal medicine, Dr. Williams-Cleaves continued her residency at the prestigious Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts, and she practiced for many years in San Francisco, California, before returning to Memphis; and

WHEREAS, highly sought after for her expertise and her compassionate care, Dr. Beverly Williams-Cleaves led the endocrine outpatient clinics at the MedPlex Clinic and served as an associate professor in the division of endocrinology at the UTHSC; and

WHEREAS, she was devoted to giving back to her community, facilitating scores of community health fairs and organizing numerous outreach programs. Along with her sisters, Dr. Williams-Cleaves established a fellowship at the University of Tennessee and college

scholarships at Manassas High School and Friendship Baptist Church, where she was a lifelong member; she also launched the church's "Feed the Less Fortunate" program; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Williams-Cleaves was an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc., The Society for the Arts, Inc., Bluff City Medical Society, Leadership Memphis, Healthy Memphis Common Table, and the American Diabetes Association, and she was a board member of LeMoyne-Owen College; and

WHEREAS, she was deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Beverly Williams-Cleaves enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband, Calvin Cleaves; her children, Calvin (Georgette) Cleaves II, Carlotta (Terence) Williams, and Marinda Anderson; and her grandchildren, Astasia Williams, Terence "T.J." Williams, Jr., Calvin D. Cleaves III, and Addyson Cleaves; and

WHEREAS, she will be sorely missed but fondly remembered by her sister, Ethelyn Williams-Neal, M.D.; her nieces, Pam Crittendon (Doug) Johnson and Jehan L. Roberson; her nephews, Sheldon C. (Lolita) Crittendon and William C. Roberson; and a host of extended family, friends, classmates, colleagues, students, and mentees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Williams-Cleaves was preceded in death by her sister, Willie Mae Williams Crittendon; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Beverly Williams-Cleaves leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Dr. Beverly Jean Williams-Cleaves, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Williams-Cleaves.

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