**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROMINENT AFRICAN AMERICAN BROADCAST EXECUTIVE AND TALK SHOW HOST ARMSTRONG WILLIAMS, A NATIVE OF MARION.

Whereas, born on February 5, 1959, in Marion, broadcast executive and talk show host Armstrong Williams was raised with his nine siblings on a 200‑acre South Carolina tobacco farm. He received his bachelor’s degree in political science and economics from South Carolina State University in 1981 and was mentored by former Senator Strom Thurmond as a legislative aide; and

Whereas, from 1982 to 1986, the young Armstrong worked as a confidential assistant to the chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Clarence Thomas, before moving into the field of public relations. He worked as a vice president for governmental and international affairs with B&C Associates before launching the Graham Williams Group in 1991; and

Whereas, he first made waves during the controversy surrounding the appointment of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court. His columns defending his former boss were reprinted in newspapers around the country, marking Mr. Williams’ debut as a media personality. Since then, he has written weekly syndicated columns that have appeared in over three hundred newspapers across the nation, including *The Washington Times* and *New York Amsterdam News*; and

Whereas, in 1991, Armstrong Williams got his first radio show, and by 1995 his TV series *The Right Side With Armstrong Williams* had achieved national distribution. That same year, he published a successful book, *Beyond Blame: How We Can Succeed by Breaking the Dependency Barrier*. He also has hosted a political talk show, *The Armstrong Williams Show*, which airs on Sirius XM 126 Urban View satellite radio; and

Whereas, from 2001 to 2003, Mr. Williams served as the chief operating officer of Renaissance TV Cable Network, where he managed staff, programming, advertising, and the development of prime‑time specials. He also founded, and serves as manager of, Howard Stirk Holdings, a company that owns two broadcast stations, WWMBCW21 in Myrtle Beach and WEYINBC25 in Flint, Michigan. In addition, Armstrong Williams is Dr. Benjamin Carson’s business manager; executive editor of *American CurrentSee* digital magazine; and a partner in Chateau EZ in the South of France, the Sonnet Hotel in Mallorca, Spain, and Casa de La Brisa in Mexico; and

Whereas, a lifelong member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Armstrong Williams has served on the boards of Childhelp USA, the *Washington Afro‑American* newspaper, the Presidential Commission on White House Fellows, Independence Federal S&L Bank, the Ben & Candy Carson Scholarship Fund, and *Newsmax*. *TALKERS* magazine has named him one of the one hundred most important radio talk show hosts in America. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor the life and achievements of prominent African American broadcast executive and talk show host Armstrong Williams, a native of Marion.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Armstrong Williams.

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