

1 HR144
2 212116-1
3 By Representative McClammy
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 18-MAR-21

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7
8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF DR. EDWARD DONALD WILLIS.
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10 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the
11 death on March 6, 2021, of Dr. Edward Donald Willis, at the
12 age of 80; and

13 WHEREAS, his passing leaves a void in the lives of
14 his loving family, many friends, and the entire community,
15 where he was highly regarded; Dr. Willis was born on August
16 17, 1940, to Isaac Eugene Willis and Rosetta Gordon Willis;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, a resident of Montgomery, Alabama, for more
19 than 50 years, Dr. Willis was the sixth of seven children in
20 his family; graduating from Hudson High School at the age of
21 16, he received an undergraduate degree from Tuskegee
22 Institute in 1961, and a Doctorate from the university's
23 School of Veterinary Medicine in 1966; and

24 WHEREAS, commissioned as a Captain in the United
25 States Army, his military service included a Tour of Duty in
26 Vietnam with the Veterinary Corps, assignments to the Army
27 Reserve and the U.S. Air Force Reserve, and an active duty

1 post at the Pentagon during Operation Desert Storm; he retired
2 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2000, having been
3 recognized with several awards and medals during his
4 distinguished military career; and

5 WHEREAS, when the veterinary pioneer, Dr. Willis,
6 opened the Willis Animal Clinic in 1975, he was recognized as
7 the first African-American Licensed Veterinarian to practice
8 and own a veterinary hospital in Montgomery, Alabama; with
9 humble beginnings, he initially provided care for local
10 animals from a trailer, until he built the hospital's current
11 location on Mobile Highway; and

12 WHEREAS, he was predeceased by his parents; brother,
13 Dr. Isaac Eugene Willis, Jr.; and sisters, Geraldine Willis
14 Smith and Celestine Willis Alston; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Willis is survived by his wife of 54
16 years, Helen Ann Roberts Willis; children, Edward Donald
17 "Eddie" Willis, Jr., Dr. Dana Willis-Henderson (Juan), and
18 Andrew Antonia Willis; grandchildren, Edward Donald "Trey"
19 Willis, III, Chandler Henderson, and Darian Henderson; sister,
20 Ruth Willis; and brothers, Timothy Willis and Arthur Willis;
21 and a host of other relatives and many friends; and

22 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly
23 missed, the memories of Dr. Willis will be cherished in the
24 hearts of all who knew and loved him; now therefore,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
26 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Dr. Edward
27 Donald Willis is recorded with deep sadness, and this

1 resolution is offered in tribute to his life, along with
2 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by
3 many.