



HR0434

LRB098 12310 MST 46574 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize Emma L. Wilson-King  
4 Foundation recent honorees - the late Mayor of East St. Louis  
5 James E. Williams Sr. and his wife Lillian Croom Williams; and

6           WHEREAS, The Emma L. Wilson-King Foundation was  
7 established in 2009 as a civic and educational foundation  
8 dedicated to the enhancement of the neighborhoods and community  
9 of East St. Louis; the foundation is a non-profit organization  
10 and was created to improve key elements of East St. Louis such  
11 as public parks, gardens, buildings, neighborhood  
12 organizations, and educational enhancement of both young and  
13 old through schools and community center; and

14           WHEREAS, The Emma L Wilson-King Foundation is part of a  
15 living legacy in memory of Mrs. Emma L Wilson-King, which is  
16 formed out of her strong yet simple sense of caring and giving  
17 regardless of personal wealth; she fostered relationships with  
18 those both young and old and instilled in them a sense of  
19 compassion to help others; and

20           WHEREAS, James E. Williams Sr. became the first  
21 African-American mayor of East St. Louis in 1971; he later  
22 served as president of School Board District 189; during his

1 tenure as mayor and school board president, he always sought to  
2 be accessible to those he was elected to serve; and

3 WHEREAS, Lillian Croom Williams was an educator and  
4 community organizer who advocated for the disenfranchised  
5 citizens in her community; she worked with students to help  
6 them achieve their goals and continue to pursue a higher  
7 education; she also led the fight for fair wages for police,  
8 firemen, and teachers; and

9 WHEREAS, Honorees are those whose actions personify the  
10 best in public service and education; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
12 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13 we recognize the Emma L. Wilson-King Foundation honorees, the  
14 late James E. Williams Sr. and Lillian Croom Williams; and be  
15 it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to honoree Lillian Croom Williams.