



## 2015 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

January 30, 2015 – Introduced by Senators L. TAYLOR, HARRIS DODD, FARROW, CARPENTER, VUKMIR, RISSER, LASSA, LASEE, WIRCH, ERPENBACH, DARLING, MILLER, LAZICH, HANSEN, NASS and RINGHAND, cosponsored by Representatives BARNES, YOUNG, JOHNSON, GOYKE, ZEPNICK, KAHL, ZAMARRIPA, BARCA, HEBL, KESSLER, BALLWEG, HUTTON, POPE, DANOU, SINICKI, HINTZ, TAUCHEN, A. OTT, THIESFELDT, SHANKLAND, BERCEAU, MURPHY, SUBECK and MILROY. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** the life and service of Annette Polly Williams.

2             Whereas, Annette Polly Williams, the zealous legislator and an unapologetic  
3 supporter of the African–American community, was a leader, role model, and  
4 dedicated public servant. With deep roots in the Milwaukee community she attended  
5 North Division High School, becoming a proud “Blue Devil” for life. The pride and  
6 love she had for her community would serve as a guiding light throughout her  
7 illustrious career; and

8             Whereas, Annette Polly Williams, the legislator, successfully became the  
9 second African–American woman elected as a Wisconsin State Representative, and  
10 would go on to become the longest serving female legislator in either house, serving  
11 residents in the 10th Assembly District from 1980 through 2010; and

12             Whereas, Annette Polly Williams, the educator, was determined to level the  
13 playing field for children of low–income families. She unwittingly and forever  
14 changed the educational landscape and received national recognition by garnering  
15 bipartisan support to achieve what she thought was fair and just. Representative

1 Williams was the mother of one of the state’s most significant laws, the Parental  
2 Choice Legislation. Over the span of her 30 year career, she fought for a wide range  
3 of issues. No one championed the issues of our community more than “Polly,” as she  
4 fought for redistricting to achieve better black representation; program funding for  
5 high school dropouts; improvements in daycare facilities; and access to quality  
6 healthcare; and

7       Whereas, Annette Polly Williams, the steadfast woman, championed her efforts  
8 through many organizations like the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Club, The Black  
9 Women’s Network, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women,  
10 and Wisconsin African American Women’s Center. She brought the community  
11 together to tackle our most pressing issues. She had a real servant’s heart and often  
12 hosted dinner at her home to foster a sense of community and family among her  
13 colleagues; and

14       Whereas, Annette Polly Williams, the great supporter of Black elected officials,  
15 through her mentorship, guidance, and political support, believed in the power of  
16 African American representation from the local to federal levels. She work  
17 extensively hard to make this a reality, through her work on Reverend Jesse  
18 Jackson’s presidential campaign in the 1980s to supporting a host of Black elected  
19 officials at the city, county, and state levels. She demonstrated in leadership and  
20 deeds that African-Americans contributions should be valued and supported; and

21       Whereas, Annette Polly Williams, the mother, was tremendously giving and  
22 dedicated by nature. Her children were her greatest priority and she worked  
23 tirelessly to ensure that they would have a better life. She often stressed the  
24 importance of education and persistence to her children; and

1           Whereas, Annette Polly Williams, the friend, colleague, and mentor, has left  
2 behind a rich legacy on Wisconsin politics. She was a true pioneer, trailblazing a path  
3 for the likes of Congresswoman Gwen Moore and State Senator Lena Taylor.  
4 Wisconsin will forever be indebted to her passion, vision, and service that touched  
5 the lives of so many; now, therefore, be it

6           ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the  
7 Wisconsin Senate respectfully recognize and applaud the work, mentorship, and  
8 legacy of their colleague and friend, Wisconsin State Representative Annette Polly  
9 Williams, whose life positively impacted and uplifted the community that she so  
10 dearly loved and who loved her in return; and be it further

11           ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint  
12 resolution to her children, Winston, Mildred, Kimberly, and Krystal.

13

(END)