



2015 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 3

January 29, 2015 – Introduced by Representatives YOUNG, KESSLER, BOWEN, BARNES, JOHNSON, JORGENSEN, ZAMARRIPA, POPE, PETRYK and THIESFELDT, cosponsored by Senators L. TAYLOR, HARRIS DODD, FARROW, ROTH, NASS and OLSEN. Referred to Committee on Rules.

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

2 Whereas, former representative to the Wisconsin Assembly Annette Polly
3 Williams was born on January 10, 1937, and died on November 9, 2014; and

4 Whereas, Annette Polly Williams, known as Polly, was born in Belzoni,
5 Mississippi, graduated from Milwaukee's North Division High School, and earned
6 a bachelor's degree from UW-Milwaukee in 1975; and

7 Whereas, Polly Williams served as a Democratic state representative for the
8 10th Assembly District in Milwaukee, being first elected in 1980 and announcing her
9 retirement in 2010, representing central Milwaukee and Glendale; and

10 Whereas, Polly Williams became the longest-serving female legislator in either
11 house, serving the state for 30 years; and

12 Whereas, Polly Williams was the author of the nation's first school choice
13 legislation and was instrumental in creating the Milwaukee Parental Choice
14 Program in 1989; and

1 Whereas, Polly Williams served on the Assembly’s Education Reform
2 Committee beginning in 1999 and was named chairperson in 2009, and also served
3 on many other committees throughout her legislative career; and

4 Whereas, Polly Williams was the first African–American and female candidate
5 for Milwaukee County Executive in 1992; and

6 Whereas, Polly Williams was cited in the *New York Times* as one of 13
7 innovative thinkers in education in 1997; and

8 Whereas, Polly Williams appeared on news programs such as CBS’s *60*
9 *Minutes*, NBC’s *Today*, ABC’s *World News*, and PBS’s *MacNeil–Lehrer Newshour*;
10 and

11 Whereas, Polly Williams lectured at universities such as Harvard, Yale,
12 Marquette, Stanford, Johns Hopkins, and Minnesota; and

13 Whereas, Polly Williams received the National Black Caucus of State
14 Legislators’ President’s Award for Distinguished Service in 1990, the
15 UW–Milwaukee Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumnus award in 1994, and
16 a Lifetime Achievement Award from UW–Milwaukee in 1998, and was named one
17 of *Education Week*’s “Faces of the 20th Century”; and

18 Whereas, Polly Williams received a presidential invitation to the White House
19 Conference on Parental Choice in 1989, was a Visiting Fellow at the Auckland
20 Institute of Technology in New Zealand in 1993, was a Scholar in Residence at the
21 National Alliance of Black School Educators in 1996, was financial secretary to the
22 National Black Caucus of State Legislators, and a presidential elector for Barack
23 Obama in 2008; and

24 Whereas, Polly Williams was described as “a legend” and “a warrior” and her
25 career as “groundbreaking” by those who knew her; and

