



SR1321

LRB100 18108 MST 33302 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Bennett James Williams of Litchfield, who passed away on January 20, 2018; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Bennett Williams was born in Harrisburg to Thomas and Marie (Maynard) Williams on February 13, 1925; he served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1943 to 1945 during World War II; he spent 16 months overseas and participated in air strikes in the Pacific Theater at the Solomon Islands, Bougainville, New Hebrides, and Samar; he was honorably discharged on November 16, 1945; he married Evanelle Meler on April 2, 1946 and his family moved to Litchfield in 1955; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

WHEREAS, Bennett Williams was a lifelong coal miner; he worked at the Crown I Mine in Farmersville until it closed in 1971, and then went on to work at the Coffeen Mine until its closing in 1983; he was very active in the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) for over 70 years, where he held offices and was most recently president of the political action committee, Compac; and

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

WHEREAS, Bennett Williams was very active in Democratic politics and assisted, chaired, co-chaired, and supported many political campaigns; he joined the American Legion in 1945,

21

22

1 where he served as commander, county commander, and vice
2 commander finance officer, and was recently awarded a
3 certificate for 70 years of continuous service; he was also a
4 member of the Color Guard of Post #436, 40 et 8, VFW Post
5 #3912, and the Prairieland Leathernecks; and

6 WHEREAS, Bennett Williams was an alderman for the City of
7 Litchfield for 16 years from 1967 to 1983; he was mayor pro-tem
8 for six months and chairman of the fire and lake departments;
9 he was a member of the Economic Development Council for over 30
10 years and was an emeritus member; he also served as president
11 of the Litchfield Red Cross Chapter for 10 years and
12 coordinated blood drives with his wife; and

13 WHEREAS, Bennett Williams was an avid outdoorsman and
14 traveled all over the U.S. and Canada to hunt, fish, white
15 water raft, and ski; he loved working on his garden, growing
16 vegetables and flowers, and took great pride in his home and
17 landscape; he was a member of the St. Timothy United Methodist
18 Church, Litchfield Moose Lodge #1634, and Disabled American
19 Veterans; and

20 WHEREAS, Bennett Williams was preceded in death by his
21 parents and his wife of 63 years, Evanel; and

22 WHEREAS, Bennett Williams is survived by his daughter,

1 Sandra Klein; his son, James Gregory (Susan) Williams; his
2 grandchildren, Benjamin Colt Fletcher and Haley Marie
3 Williams; his great-grandson, Thomas James Abner; and many
4 nieces, nephews, and cousins; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
7 Bennett James Williams, and extend our sincere condolences to
8 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Bennett Williams as an expression of
12 our deepest sympathy.