

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 59

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Shreveport native Richard Williams, the father and coach of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams, for his many achievements.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize Richard Williams, the father and coach of tennis legends Venus and Serena Williams, and to commend his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Richard Williams grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana, and lived with his mother, Julia, and siblings in a three-room shack on East Seventy-Ninth Street; he was the oldest child and had four sisters: Pat, Barbara, Penny, and Faye; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams is best known as the father and coach of Venus and Serena Williams; his daughters won thirty combined grand slam singles titles and competed against each other in nine finals matches; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams's daughters won seventeen doubles titles in only thirty-three major appearances, and they have three gold medals in Olympic tennis doubles; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams stood out from many other coaching fathers; he was an especially supportive parent who not only trained his daughters to compete in tennis but also to be proud and independent young women; and

WHEREAS, Richard Williams is truly deserving of the highest recognition for his unprecedented coaching legacy and for emerging from incredibly difficult circumstances to raise the two greatest competitors in women's tennis history.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Shreveport native Richard Williams, the father and coach of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams, for his many achievements and does hereby express enduring gratitude for his trailblazing contributions to professional tennis.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES