

**RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION  
OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE,  
MEMORIALIZING BILL WILLIAMS OF  
WBIR.**

**RESOLUTION: R-25-10-101**

**REQUESTED BY: COMMISSIONERS  
DURRETT & THOMPSON**

**PREPARED BY: COMMISSIONER  
DURRETT**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND CORRECTNESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR OF LAW**

**APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE**

**VETOED: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE**

**VETO  
OVERRIDE: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE**

**MINUTE  
BOOK \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE \_\_\_\_\_**

**WHEREAS, the Knox County Commission recognizes and honors individuals whose lives have profoundly impacted our community through service, compassion, and excellence; and**

**WHEREAS, Bill Williams, a beloved news anchor and journalist, passed away peacefully on August 18, 2025, at the age of 91, leaving behind a legacy of integrity, empathy, and dedication to East Tennessee; and**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Williams anchored countless newscasts over nearly three decades at WBIR-TV, becoming the most trusted voice in Knoxville and a guiding presence for generations of viewers; and**

**WHEREAS, often described as the “Walter Cronkite of East Tennessee,” Mr. Williams was a journalist who insisted on truth and accuracy in his own work, and that of his colleagues but, beyond his skill and love of broadcasting the news, he loved his community and the people in his community, especially the children; and**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Williams pioneered the groundbreaking series Monday’s Child, which helped more than 1,000 children find loving adoptive families, demonstrating his deep commitment to vulnerable members of our community; and**

**WHEREAS, his reporting on poverty and rural Appalachian communities inspired the founding of Mission of Hope, a nonprofit organization that continues to serve those in need throughout the region, assisting nearly twenty-thousand children and their families every year; and**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Williams anchored the annual Friends Across the Mountains telethon, raising vital funds for the preservation and protection of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was honored innumerable times by professional and community organizations and, among the many awards he received, the ones he cherished most were the honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree conferred on him by Carson-Newman University and being inducted into the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame in 2019; and**

**WHEREAS, in retirement, he devoted himself to his children and grandchildren, played the piano daily, and generously taught others to play musical instruments, continuing to share his gifts and wisdom; and**

**WHEREAS, even after stepping away from the anchor desk, Mr. Williams remained a mentor and friend to countless journalists, embodying the values of mentorship, humility, and lifelong learning; and**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was not only a teacher of journalism but a teacher of life—described by colleagues and friends as a “force of nature” whose compassion and faith touched everyone he met; and**

**WHEREAS, in recognition of his contributions, the street in front of WBIR bears his name, a permanent tribute to his enduring influence on the station and the community it serves; and**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Williams is survived by daughter Marcelene Edwards and her husband, David; daughter Angelique Thomas and her husband, Wesley; daughter-in-law Crystal Williams Rosecrance and her husband, Matt; and four grandchildren.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF KNOX COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:**

**The Commission of Knox County, Tennessee hereby honors the life and legacy of Bill Williams, expresses their deepest condolences to his family, and celebrates the indelible mark he left on Knoxville, East Tennessee, and the field of journalism.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be presented to the family of Bill Williams.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution is to take effect from and after its passage, as provided by the Charter of Knox County, Tennessee, the public welfare requiring it.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Presiding Officer of the Commission      Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**County Clerk      Date**

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**County Mayor      Date**

**Vetoed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**County Mayor      Date**