

Ike was born in the Union Heights neighborhood of Charleston, the son of the late Reverend Willie Williams and Inez Williams Brown. He grew up in a large family with ten brothers and sisters, and attended Charleston County public schools.

In 1967, Ike received a bachelor's degree in professional biology from South Carolina State College. During his senior year at S.C. State, he was a leader in organizing student protests, which ultimately led to the removal and replacement of the president of the university and improved overall conditions at the school. After graduating he was commissioned through the Army ROTC in Army Air Defense in 1967, and served on active duty in the United States and Korea from 1967–1969. He was active as a youth in the N.A.A.C.P. and was president of the South Carolina Conference Youth Division from 1963–1967. Ike also served as chairman of the N.A.A.C.P. National Youth Work Committee from 1966 to 1976.

As a student leader, Ike led efforts in Charleston, Orangeburg and statewide to open public accommodations to African Americans. He actively participated in sit-ins, kneel-ins, walk-ins, and pray-ins, and was subsequently jailed over 17 times. He also organized communities all over South Carolina during voter registration efforts prior to the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

In 1969, Ike was hired as Field Director of the South Carolina N.A.A.C.P., a position he held until 1983. He is noted for accomplishing several landmark achievements during this period. He filed reapportionment lawsuits to eliminate multi-member districts in the South Carolina House of Representatives and Senate, organized the first efforts to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a legal holiday in South Carolina, and he drew public attention to inadequate, low-income housing in South Carolina. Ike also facilitated investigations to end police use of excessive force, as well as mobilized citizens in Bowman and St. Matthews to improve their local educational systems and gain election to their local school boards.

In addition, Ike expanded the fundraising ability of the South Carolina Conference of Branches N.A.A.C.P. by creating the Annual Freedom Fund Dinner, a vehicle that raises several hundred thousand dollars annually. During this time, he also became one of the founders and organizers of the South Carolina United Citizens Party. Ike always credited his civil rights involvement to his sister, Mildred, his father, Mrs. Mary Lee Davis and Reverend I. DeQuincy Newman.

From 1983–1992, Mr. Williams worked as a consultant to many businesses and corporations in South Carolina, and served as an Associate Publisher for the South Carolinian, a monthly news magazine. He also worked as an advertising consultant for the South Carolina Black Media group.

In 1992, Ike and William DeLoach spearheaded my successful campaign to become the first African American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from South Carolina since post-Reconstruction. He joined my Congressional staff after the campaign and served as District Aide for 15 years.

For his lifetime of service, Ike received numerous awards from the N.A.A.C.P., many social and civic organizations, and was named to

Who's Who in America. He was dedicated to community service and served on the I. DeQuincy Newman Foundation at the University of South Carolina. He was Chairman of the E.A.R. Montgomery Foundation, Chairman of the Board of Richland Primary Healthcare Association, and a member of the Advisory Board of the Trio Program at the University of South Carolina.

Ike was a member of First Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Columbia, South Carolina. He was a Prince Hall Free and Accepted Mason and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Ike leaves a host of friends and relatives to mourn his memory, including his wife the former Evelyn Tobin of Columbia, and three children: Dechancela Evette, Isaac, Jr. and Shelley Nicole.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Ike Williams. He was a man of deep faith, who always lived by the admonition in the Book of James that it is not enough to tell those in need to go in faith. Ike was a man that black, white, young, old, weak and strong sought out in their time of need, and he tried to never leave anyone wanting. Although his presence will be sorely missed, his legacy lives on the countless people he touched over the years, and I am thankful to be counted in that number.

HONORING MATTHEW ALBERT
GANDY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Albert Gandy, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Albert Gandy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have remained in Orlando, Florida with my wife as she prepares to give birth to our second child. If I had been present yesterday, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall 72: "nay"; rollcall 73: "nay"; rollcall 74: "nay"; rollcall 75: "yea"; rollcall 76: "yea"; rollcall 77: "nay."

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM (BILL)
DENNISON

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, today I wish to express my warm thanks, congratulations, and best wishes to William (Bill) Dennison. Mr. Dennison is being recognized by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and will be the recipient of its highest honor, the Francis H. Raymond Award for his 30 years of service and commitment to the California forest industry.

After being raised in rural northern California, Mr. Dennison earned a bachelor of science degree in forestry from the University of California, Berkeley in 1959. Bill's passion for the forest began while working for the Diamond Match Lumber Company in Stirling City, and within a few short years, he became a registered professional forester.

Mr. Dennison's knowledge and leadership in the forest industry set him apart from others and quickly qualified him to take the reins as the vice president and later president of the California Forestry Association (CFA). During his 14 year tenure, Bill represented the industry both in Sacramento and Washington, DC, and was able to navigate CFA through some of the most difficult forest management issues it ever faced.

Throughout his career, Mr. Dennison has distinguished himself as a visionary leader with the ability to educate the public on the value that California forest products provide. Bill was a critical member of the Quincy Library Group, helped organize the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition and later served as the Executive Director of the Sierra Cascade Logging Conference.

Although Mr. Dennison's accomplishments in the forest industry are legendary, his greatest legacy may be his commitment to advancing forestry education programs and creating a network of forest community organizations known as the Alliance for Environment and Resources that are today the model throughout the country.

Most recently, Mr. Dennison served as the Third District Supervisor for Plumas County. He quickly became a national leader on resource conservation, water quality and rural management issues while serving as Chairman of the Public Lands Steering Committee for the National Association of Counties.

Bill has served on numerous boards and commissions and has received dozens of community and national awards including: the Plaque of Commendation by the National Forest Products Association; Award of Appreciation for Services by the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition; and my favorite, selected twice with his wife Pat, as the Grand Marshall for the Chester Rotary Club Fourth of July Parade.

It is with deep respect and personal gratitude that I thank Bill Dennison for his service to the forest industry and to the citizens of Northern California.