## COMMENDING THE LATE MRS. LOTTIE MITCHELL HINES

### HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 2026*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to commend the late Mrs. Lottie Mitchell Hines, a dedicated community activist, successful entrepreneur, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mrs. Hines worked tirelessly to improve living conditions and provide quality and affordable housing for residents of Miami's Liberty City;

Whereas, Mrs. Hines was a staunch supporter of the democratic process and worked to ensure that South Floridians exercised their right to vote;

Whereas, Mrs. Hines invested in Miami's Liberty City and Overtown communities by opening businesses numerous businesses over the years that included a taxicab service, a restaurant, grocery store and the Model City Diagnostic Center;

Whereas, Mrs. Hines volunteered with numerous organizations and served on countless neighborhood and housing improvement boards; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend the late Mrs. Lottie Mitchell Hines for her dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life all South Floridians.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN MEMORIAL ACT OF 2026

### HON. SHOMARI FIGURES

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 2026*

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Act of 2026, which would authorize Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated to establish a memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia to commemorate the service, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.

The Tuskegee Airmen are widely recognized for their exceptional combat record, including their escort missions protecting American bombers over the skies of Europe, which was vital to the Allied victory in World War II. During combat, they flew more than 15,000 sorties, escorting bombers and engaging enemy fighters. Their courage, skill, and unwavering determination helped pave the way for the desegregation of the U.S. military. Their achievements effectively broke down racial barriers, expanded opportunities for future generations of Black military personnel, and had a profound effect on the U.S. Armed Forces.

These men defended rights and freedoms abroad that they did not have back at home. They were trained as pilots on Moton Field and on Tuskegee Army Airfield in Tuskegee, Alabama, going on to form units such as the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 332nd Fighter Group. The Tuskegee Airmen, alongside thousands of Black mechanics, navigators, bombardiers, instructors, and support personnel, were essential to American victory in World War II.

The memorial will serve as an educational resource, designed to teach future generations about one of the greatest, most well-known, most well-decorated fighting forces in this Nation's history, and to highlight the important roles that Black military pilots and support personnel played during World War II.

The Tuskegee Airmen have received numerous accolades for their service, including the Congressional Gold Medal, 14 Bronze Stars, one Silver Star, 3 Distinguished Unit Citations, 96 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 744 Air Medals, and at least 60 Purple Hearts.

Their legacy has continued through Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., a national nonprofit organization founded in 1972 and incorporated in Washington, D.C., in 1975. The organization was established to preserve the history and achievements of the original Tuskegee Airmen and engage with youth to inspire future careers in aviation, aerospace, and STEM.

It is fitting that Congress enact legislation that would authorize a memorial of the Tuskegee Airmen in our Nation's capital, allowing millions of visitors who travel to Washington, D.C. each year to learn about and honor the extraordinary service and enduring legacy of the Airmen.

I invite all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

## COMMENDING MR. T. WILLARD FAIR

### HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 2026*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and commend Mr. T. Willard Fair, a visionary and community activist, whose distinguished and unprecedented leadership as President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Miami for fifty years broke down racial and discriminatory barriers in employment, education, and housing for African-Americans. His leadership transformed the climate of exclusion in South Florida in the 1960s and ushered in new era of inclusion and social change. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mr. Fair has dedicated his professional career to promoting the interest and well-being of the African-American community, and as president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Miami lead campaigns that successfully integrated corporations and businesses, and public and private volunteer organizations, in Miami, desegregated public housing in Dade County, and worked to make affordable housing available through countless construction and rehabilitation projects;

Whereas, Mr. Fair is deeply committed to solving complex problems, ranging from unemployment to illiteracy, that plague our community and offering solutions through expert ana]ysis, publications in the Miami Herald, Miami Magazine, and Tropic Magazine, and through interviews with 60 Minutes, the Tom Brokaw Show, and Ebony Magazine;

Whereas, Mr. Fair has demonstrated superior capabilities in community development while providing dynamic leadership over the Urban League of Greater Miami, which strives to improve the lives of individuals and families through employment, childcare, senior citizen services, housing, economic development, training, community service, political advocacy, and education;

Whereas, Mr. Fair co-founded Florida's first charter school, and has served as an adjunct professor at the Atlanta University School of Social Work, Bethune-Cookman University, Florida International University, and the National Urban League's Whitney M. Young, Jr. Center for Urban Leadership;

Whereas, Mr. Fair's excellence in education, leadership, and service has been recognized by various organizations through awards, accolades, and appointments, including former Secretary of State Colin Powell's Advisory Committee on Cultural Affairs, President Obama's Commission on White House Fellowships—Miami Regional Selection Panel, the United States' Advisory Committee on Cultural Affairs, and a tenure as past chairperson of the Florida State Board of Education; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend Mr. T. Willard Fair for his unwavering commitment and faithful service to our community, state and country, and the Urban League of Greater Miami.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF LOUIS ''L.B.'' ECKELKAMP, JR.

### HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 2026*

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of my constituents and a dear friend, Louis "L.B." Eckelkamp, Jr. of Washington, Missouri. It is difficult to put into words what L.B. meant for so many people and the City of Washington. L.B. started his career at a young age, learning the value of hard work while working for his father at Diamonds Restaurant in via a Ridge as a teenager washing dishes and busing tables. He was a tireless advocate for our community, devoting his life to making the world better for those around him. He served over five decades with the Bank of Washington, the longest-serving director in its history, and he also founded the oldest law firm in Washington, Eckelkamp Kuenzel LLP.

He had a great many professional accomplishments, but he was so much more than just the successes of his career.

He believed in volunteer service and giving back to the community and was one of the most involved and engaged people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. He was deeply committed to the Boy Scouts, serving locally and nationally, and helped nurture so many individuals who will become leaders in their own right in the next generation. His service included roles at the YMCA, Washington Town and Country Fair, Mercy Hospital, St. Louis Archdiocese, Missouri Historical Society, and St. Francis Borgja Parrish, among so many others. L.B. worked every day of his life to inspire those around him. He was a pillar of Washington and will leave a long legacy from which we all can learn.

I am blessed to have known him personally and learned so much from him, and I know