

By Representative Bush

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House Resolution

A resolution honoring Helen L. Miller for two decades of political and community service to the citizens of Dade County and the City of Opa-locka.

WHEREAS, Helen L. Miller was born in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, on April 23, 1925, and

WHEREAS, in the late 1970's, Helen L. Miller began a twenty-year career of political service to the citizens of Dade County and the City of Opa-locka, which included serving as both mayor and city commissioner, and

WHEREAS, Helen L. Miller was the first African-American female mayor in Florida, and

WHEREAS, in 1982 Helen L. Miller became the first African-American woman to serve on the board of directors for the Dade League of Cities, and

WHEREAS, Helen L. Miller was the first African-American woman to serve as president of the Dade League of Cities, serving from 1994 to 1995, and

WHEREAS, her community service contributions, too numerous to list, include serving as a board member for the Ground Transportation Regulatory Advisory Committee, the Alternative Board of Dade County, the Women's Park Founders Committee, the African American Center, the Dade Employment and Economic Development Committee, the National League of Cities' Urban Administration Board, the North Dade Red Cross, and the Dade County Transportation Board, and

WHEREAS, Helen L. Miller's many awards and honors include the President's Volunteer Action Award from the National Conference of Black Mayors, the Dr. Martin Luther

1 King, Jr., Drum Major for Justice Award, the Living Legacy
2 Certificate from the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged,
3 and the Outstanding Citizen Award from B'Nai B'rith, and

4 WHEREAS, one of Helen L. Miller's greatest and most
5 widely recognized accomplishments was a successful eight-year
6 campaign to persuade the Tri-Rail Authority commuter service
7 to add a station in the City of Opa-locka, thereby maintaining
8 a critical regional transportation corridor linking Opa-locka
9 to Palm Beach and Broward Counties, and

10 WHEREAS, Helen L. Miller was honored for her efforts
11 when the commuter service designated its Opa-locka station as
12 the "Helen Miller Tri-Rail Station," and

13 WHEREAS, Helen L. Miller died on October 2, 1996,
14 leaving behind a legacy of greatness in public and community
15 service, and

16 WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the House
17 of Representatives recognize the many contributions of Helen
18 L. Miller to the citizens of the State of Florida, NOW,
19 THEREFORE,

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21 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
22 Florida:

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24 That the House of Representatives of the State of
25 Florida hereby honors Helen L. Miller for twenty years of
26 exemplary "public" and community service, for her acknowledged
27 position in the forefront of political involvement among
28 African-American women in Florida, and for her unselfish
29 devotion to the betterment of the lives of citizens in
30 Opa-locka and Dade County.

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