

Proclamation



FULTON
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WHEREAS, Alfred F. “Tup” Holmes was born in 1917 in East Point, Georgia and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School; he furthered his education at Tuskegee Institute where he earned his Bachelor’s degree in 1939, and showcased his golfing prowess by winning the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference three times; and

WHEREAS, Alfred’s career also included three Southern Amateur Black-only titles, and an impressive four National Negro Amateur Championships; because of his race, Alfred was denied the opportunity to play at public golf courses in his hometown, including the prestigious Bobby Jones Golf Course; and

WHEREAS, after being turned away from Bobby Jones Golf Course in 1951, Alfred, alongside his father, Dr. Hamilton Mayo Holmes, his brother, Rev. Oliver Holmes, and family friend, Charles Bell, initiated a lawsuit against the City of Atlanta, which challenged the city’s discriminatory ordinance that barred Black citizens from using public recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, with crucial assistance from future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the Supreme Court delivered a landmark ruling on November 7, 1955, issuing strong instructions to end segregation on Atlanta’s golf courses; this ruling also set a precedent that led to the desegregation of all public places in Atlanta, and had wider implications for Civil Rights cases across the nation; and

WHEREAS, in late December 1955, Alfred, alongside his brother, Oliver W. Holmes, Charles Bell, T.D. Hawkins, and E.J. Peterson, bravely stepped onto the North Fulton Golf Course, legally breaking the color barrier on Atlanta’s public links, ushering in a new era of equality in Atlanta; his profound legacy was fittingly recognized in 1983 when the City of Atlanta dedicated the Alfred “Tup” Holmes Memorial Golf Course in Adams Park in his honor, and he was posthumously inducted into the Georgia Hall of Fame;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of his pivotal 1955 Supreme Court victory that desegregated public golf courses in Atlanta and Georgia, making golf accessible to all, recognizes Alfred F. “Tup” Holmes for his immeasurable impact on the sport of golf and his tireless fight for justice, and does hereby proclaim Thursday, June 26, 2025, as “**ALFRED F. “TUP” HOLMES REMEMBRANCE DAY**” in Fulton County, Georgia.

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner

Attest:

Clerk to the Commission

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