

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Wilson S. Smith, Jr. was born on December 6, 1943, in Thomaston, Upson County, Georgia, and graduated third in his class from Drake High School in 1961, and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from Clark College in 1965, where he also played football and became a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; and



**WHEREAS,** Dr. Smith earned a Master of Liberal Arts with Teaching Certification from Oberlin College in 1967, and later achieved a Doctor of Philosophy in Education: Policy and Leadership from The Ohio State University in 1974; and



**WHEREAS,** Dr. Smith began his career in education as a teacher in Cleveland, Ohio, and went on to serve as principal of Houghton Elementary School and later Saginaw High School, where he dedicated 27 years of transformational leadership, earning numerous awards and the admiration of students, families, and colleagues; and



**WHEREAS,** Dr. Smith further extended his impact through leadership roles including Director of Research and Director of Student Accountability and Customer Service, and continued his service through various educational leadership roles until his retirement in 2009, completing 41 years of exemplary service in education; and



**WHEREAS,** in 2014, Dr. Smith returned to Atlanta to reconnect with family and continued his lifelong commitment to service through volunteerism, community engagement, and leadership, including serving as Chief Operating Officer of the Brenda Smith Clay Foundation, Inc.; and



**WHEREAS,** his unwavering professionalism, passion, and commitment to excellence have enriched the City of Atlanta and communities beyond, leaving a lasting legacy of leadership, service, and inspiration;



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognize and honor Dr. Wilson S. Smith, Jr. for his outstanding contributions to education, community service, and leadership, and celebrates his enduring legacy of excellence and impact, and does hereby proclaim Saturday, March 21, 2026, as "**DR. WILSON S. SMITH, JR. REMEMBRANCE DAY**" in Fulton County, Georgia.



Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

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Clerk to the Commission

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