

Proclamation



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WHEREAS, James “Jim” Lacey Dent was born on May 9, 1939 in Augusta, Georgia and was known as “Big Boy” for his imposing stature and powerful drives as a pioneering professional golfer whose career spanned more than four decades on the PGA Tour and PGA Tour Champions; and

WHEREAS, Jim’s introduction to the sport of golf began when he was a caddy at the Augusta National Golf Club, following in the footsteps of his older brother, Paul; at the age of 15, Jim caddied in his first Masters in 1956 for Bob Rosburg, and later for other notable golfers like Bob Goalby, and after a brief stint playing football at Paine College, Jim left school to pursue his dream of becoming a professional golfer; and

WHEREAS, Jim turned professional in 1966, playing on minor league circuits and excelling in events hosted by the United Golfers Association, a vital tour for Black golfers during that era; in 1969, he clinched the National Negro Open, signaling his readiness for the sport’s biggest stage; and

WHEREAS, Jim earned his PGA Tour card in 1970 and was renowned for his prodigious drives, often reaching between 315 and 340 yards, making him one of the longest hitters on Tour in the 1970s, with his best PGA Tour finish in 1972 at the Walt Disney World Open Invitational where he finished tied for second, just behind Jack Nicklaus; he won the inaugural World Long Drive Championships in both 1974 and 1975, and claimed three consecutive Florida PGA Championships from 1976 to 1978; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Jim was named Senior Tour Rookie of the Year, and he secured 12 victories on the Champions Tour and amassed over \$9 million in earnings, finishing in the top-10 on the season-long money list seven times he was inducted into the Caddie Hall of Fame, Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, and National Black Golf Hall of Fame, and the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame in 1994, among others; in a fitting tribute to his roots, the road leading to the Augusta Municipal Golf Course was renamed *Jim Dent Way* in 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Jim Dent’s remarkable journey from Masters caddie to 12-time PGA Tour Champions winner and the inaugural World Long Drive Champion, whose legacy extends beyond his achievements on the golf course, and does hereby proclaim Thursday, June 26, 2025, as “**JIM DENT REMEMBRANCE DAY**” in Fulton County, Georgia.

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner

Attest:

Clerk to the Commission

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