



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the George L. Giles Post #87, founded in Chicago in 1919, was established to honor and recognize the contributions of African American veterans, and it is the oldest African American Post in the Nations and was named in memory of Lieutenant George Giles, who was killed in action during World War I; and

WHEREAS, the post honors the legacy of Lieutenant Giles and other veterans through service, patriotism, and advocacy for veterans' rights and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Earl B. Dickerson, a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army's 92nd Division, fought in the trenches of France during World War I and attended both the initial Paris Caucus and the formative St. Louis Caucus in 1919, where he was among the earliest founders of The American Legion, inspiring the organization's enduring value that "a veteran is a veteran," regardless of race, creed, color, or class; and

WHEREAS, Earl B. Dickerson played a pivotal role in organizing George L. Giles Post #87 and served as its commander for four years, while also making significant contributions as a pioneering lawyer, Chicago City Council member, Illinois assistant attorney general, and equal rights activist; and

WHEREAS, Dickerson's remarkable career advanced civil rights, equality, and justice, and he tirelessly advocated for the inclusion of African American veterans within The American Legion, and his legacy continues to inspire today; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 105th Anniversary of George L. Giles Post #87, which has served veterans and the community for 105 years:

NOW, THEREFORE, I BRANDON JOHNSON, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby recognize and honor the outstanding contributions of the GEORGE L. GILES POST #87 and EARL B. DICKERSON for their extraordinary contributions to veterans' advocacy, civil rights, and the betterment of our community.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2024

A blue ink signature of Brandon Johnson, Mayor of Chicago, written over a horizontal line.

Mayor