

House Resolution 970

By: Representatives Glaize of the 67th, Willis of the 55th, Jackson of the 68th, and Miller of the 62nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Rex "RJ" Willis, Jr.; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Rex "RJ" Willis, Jr., is a contemporary trailblazer, world traveler, and sports
3 enthusiast who currently serves on active duty while forging new paths during his MBA
4 journey at Harvard Business School after receiving the prestigious United States Navy
5 FLEET Scholarship; and

6 WHEREAS, he was raised in College Park, Georgia, and his academic prowess and
7 dedication to service were deeply influenced by his parents, Rex Willis, Sr., and Subrenia
8 Willis; and

9 WHEREAS, he joined Junior ROTC in high school, which entrusted him with leadership
10 roles and the ability to make important decisions that affected the unit, and he knew that he
11 wanted a career that embodied these characteristics, which ultimately led to him attending
12 the United States Naval Academy and being commissioned as a naval officer; and

13 WHEREAS, he entered the Surface Warfare community because he wanted to make an
14 immediate impact in defending our country and was able to do just that by driving a

15 billion-dollar warship in contested waters and communicating with our allies to protect the
16 nation's interest; and

17 WHEREAS, even though he appreciated the responsibility, he found the opportunity to lead
18 and motivate sailors far more rewarding, recognizing that physical assets such as ships and
19 planes are vital, but that humans are the most important asset that the military has and so he
20 dedicated a tremendous amount of time to their professional and personal development to
21 empower them to become leaders in their own rights; and

22 WHEREAS, he made history as a ballistic missile defense officer while serving as senior
23 watchstander for the test launch of \$40 million ballistic missile that reached highest altitude
24 ever achieved by a Navy interceptor, significantly contributing to the nation's defense; and

25 WHEREAS, his outstanding contributions earned him the Navy and Marine Corps
26 Achievement Medal twice; and

27 WHEREAS, despite his remarkable achievements, he remains deeply connected to his
28 community, embodying the spirit of service and relying heavily on servant leadership; and

29 WHEREAS, his many accomplishments have led to his selection as a Modern Day African
30 American Male Role Model to be featured during Black History Month.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body recognize and commend Rex "RJ" Willis, Jr.; thank him for his
33 many contributions to his community, state, and nation; and congratulate him on his selection
34 as a Modern Day African American Male Role Model to be featured during Black History
35 Month.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Rex
38 "RJ" Willis, Jr.