

Dr. Solomon C. Stinson, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 03-56 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE NAMING OF THE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 400 NORTH MIAMI AVENUE, MIAMI, FLORIDA, AS THE WILKIE D. FERGUSON, JR. UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

COMMITTEE: BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

A number of Florida delegates to the U. S. House of Representatives have co-sponsored H. R. 2538, a bill to name the United States Courthouse located at 400 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida, for the late U.S. District Court Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson. Judge Ferguson, an exceptional public servant, jurist and role model, died on June 9, 2003.

Judge Ferguson was an American success story, born to Bahamian immigrants and raised in the Liberty Square public housing project in Miami. He attended all-Black public schools: Liberty City Elementary School, Dorsey Middle School and Miami Northwestern Senior High School. He received his B.S. in Business Administration and Accounting from Florida A&M, his masters in Financial Administration from Drexel University and his J.D. from Howard University.

Judge Ferguson knew every aspect of the law, and he knew people. In the Civil Rights Division of the old U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and as staff attorney for Legal Services of Greater Miami, he learned firsthand the problems that ordinary people face and how the legal system and our courts are often their only recourse for justice.

He was the first Black jurist appointed to the Miami-Dade Circuit Court and the Third District Court of Appeals, and the second Black federal judge in the Southern District of Florida.

Judge Ferguson's reputation for fairness and hard work made him an exceptional role model and inspiration for young African-Americans and all youths interested in law and public service. The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, should support H.R. 2538 and encourage U.S. Senators Bob Graham and Bill Nelson to support a companion bill in the Senate.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. SOLOMON C. STINSON:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida,
(1) approve Resolution No. 03-56 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting the naming of the United States Courthouse located at 400 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida, as the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. United States Courthouse.

(2) direct the Superintendent of Schools to share this resolution with Miami-Dade County's congressional delegation and with U.S. Senators Bob Graham and Bill Nelson.

MP:jam

**REPLACEMENT
D-12**

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-56
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
SUPPORTING THE NAMING OF THE UNITED STATES
COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 400 NORTH MIAMI AVENUE, MIAMI, FLORIDA,
AS THE WILKIE D. FERGUSON, JR. UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE**

WHEREAS, Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson was an American success story, born to Bahamian immigrants and raised in the Liberty Square public housing project in Miami; and

WHEREAS, Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson attended all-Black public schools—Liberty City Elementary School, Dorsey Middle School and Miami Northwestern Senior High School, and went on to earn his B.S. in Business Administration and Accounting from Florida A&M, his masters in Financial Administration from Drexel University and his J.D. from Howard University; and

WHEREAS, Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson knew every aspect of the law, and he knew people. In the Civil Rights Division of the old U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and as staff attorney for Legal Services of Greater Miami, he learned firsthand the problems that ordinary people face and how the legal system and our courts are often their only recourse for justice; and

WHEREAS, Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson was the first Black jurist appointed to the Miami-Dade Circuit Court and the Third District Court of Appeals, and the second Black federal judge in the Southern District of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson's reputation for fairness and hard work made him an exceptional role model and inspiration for young African-Americans and all youths interested in law and public service; and

WHEREAS, Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson deserves to have a U.S. Courthouse named in his honor;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 03-56 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting the naming of the United States Courthouse located at 400 North Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida, as the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. United States Courthouse

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent record of this Board.

Presented this nineteenth day of November, A.D. 2003

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary