

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 185

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To commend Calvin Mills Jr. on his myriad accomplishments as a proliferant serial tech entrepreneur.

WHEREAS, Calvin Mills Jr., a native New Orleanian, growing up in the Third Ward, is the son of a widowed school teacher who made huge sacrifices, but was steadfast to ensure her son would not be affected by the limitations of a destitute neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mills, perpetually bolstered by unwavering support from his mother and dedicated mentors, fostered an unwavering resolve, developed skills in soccer, golf, football, the saxophone, and became a member of the esteemed Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, as a full-back for the esteemed Southern University Jaguars, he achieved an unparalleled record of twenty-five victories and zero defeats, winning two National Black College Football Championships, and three consecutive titles in the Southern Athletic Conference, solidifying his status as a five-time champion; and

WHEREAS, while Mr. Mills showcased his skills as an All-Star college full-back, he completed his undergraduate education, obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Business from Southern University A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, at the helm of CMC Technology Solutions (CMC), founded in 2001 as an IT consulting firm based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Mr. Mills serves as the visionary Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer, spearheading a fully-certified and rapidly growing enterprise that provides dependable and comprehensive next-generation technology solutions with precision; and

WHEREAS, since its establishment in 2001, CMC has experienced significant growth after successfully fulfilling a contract request from the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus to develop call center software to track Hurricane Katrina evacuees, subsequently

followed by a federal contract worth over three hundred thousand dollars to deliver computer equipment and services to the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

WHEREAS, the exceptional service provided by the CMC team in delivering hurricane relief services after Katrina and Rita led to state and national recognition, distinctions, awards, and subsequent contracts with the United States Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the Louisiana Economic Development (LED), Louisiana Small Business Development Center, and Southern University A&M College, firmly establishing CMC as a preeminent IT consulting company; and

WHEREAS, CMC has earned numerous prestigious awards, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Small Business Achievement Award for *Outstanding Performance in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina*, the Louisiana Governor's *Official Statement of Recognition*, the SBA and LED *Champion of the Year* for entrepreneurial excellence, SBA's Client of the Year as the *Top-Ranking National Small Business Incubator*, the National Small Business Association *Lewis A. Shattuck Small Business Advocate of the Year* for going above and beyond in advocating for the small business community, *Outstanding Alumnus* by the State Board of Supervisors of the Southern University A&M College System, and being listed consecutively for three years in the *Madison Who's Who of Top Executives*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mills is recognized for his pioneering approach in the field of information technology, and continues to astound the industry by achieving remarkable milestones, including the prestigious *U.S. Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award* from the Honorable United States President Joe Biden, honored as the *Louisiana Honoree for Exemplary Work* by the Urban League of Louisiana, gained recognition as Louisiana's Business and Technology Center *Client of the Year*, named a New Orleans Top Tech 30 Honoree, and certifications as both a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and a Minority Business Enterprise; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being named as the *Capitol Region's 100 Most Influential Black Men* by the Black Chamber of Commerce, and having served for eight years as the mayor's designee for the City of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and as board chairman for three

years on the Nexus Louisiana Board of Directors (NexusLA), Mr. Mills voluntarily relinquished his position, only to step into the role of interim President and CEO within the organization; and

WHEREAS, upon achieving the distinction as the youngest recipient of the *Presidential Volunteer Service Achievement Award* in Louisiana, Mr. Mills maximized this honor to propel the NexusLA community into a prominent business incubator, dedicated to accelerating the growth of technology-based companies, by providing crucial resources including coaching, capital, and valuable networking opportunities, while fostering an environment of innovation and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, under the agile, adaptive, and pioneering leadership of Mr. Mills, SLT Technology, Inc. was established with a collaborative and highly-skilled tech team which includes Chief Executive Officer, Michael Spotsville, an expert in information management and IT workforce development; Chief Financial Officer, Garland Tillman, a skilled property manager and coding professional; and Chief Operations Officer and Vice President of Research and Strategy, D. Johann Hebert, a mechanical engineer, U.S. diplomat expert in counter-measures and network compliance elite; and

WHEREAS, driven by his fervent resolve to empower the upcoming generation of entrepreneurs, Mr. Mills established "CLIMB" (Changing Lives Is My Business), a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing impecunious families with technology resources through the construction of desktop computers, thereby establishing the groundwork for Calvin Cares Weekend, an annual tradition which brings over fifteen hundred disadvantaged children to an unforgettable experience by attending the Bayou Classic, encompassing fun, football, and being a supportive fan to the Southern University Jaguars and Grambling State University Tigers; and

WHEREAS, drawing on his accomplishments as a renowned speaker and recipient of numerous leadership awards, Mr. Mills channeled his eloquence into authoring inspiring books, including *No Secrets to Elevation: The Great Idea Journal*, a practical resource that offers valuable tips for striving entrepreneurs to maintain focus and motivation, and *No Secrets to Elevation: An Entrepreneur's Story of Persistence*, a captivating chronicle of his remarkable journey from a challenging upbringing in a disadvantaged, crime-ridden

neighborhood to becoming a fearless and determined individual driven by the pursuit of success and service; and

WHEREAS, Calvin Mills Jr., an award-winning speaker, published author, among the top fifty business leaders invited to the White House Business Summit, and recognized as one of *Black Enterprise Magazine's 100 Modern Men*, embodies a give-back and grow-the-community philosophy, encouraging the indigent to embrace challenges as motivation to remain determined and steadfast, and always striving for greater success in both the public and private sectors, all of which propelled him to become a renowned serial tech entrepreneur.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Calvin Mills Jr. for his numerous achievements as a prolific serial tech entrepreneur and highly influential figure in the realm of high-tech innovations, owning the sole company supported by the globally recognized Oracle Corporation, while effectively merging his dedication to community development with people-centered approaches, all driven by his unwavering focus on faith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mr. Calvin Mills Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE