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LRB103 39636 LAW 69996 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Lester H. McKeever Jr. on
4 the occasion of being named a 2024 Lincoln Laureate of the
5 Order of Lincoln; and

6 WHEREAS, Established in 1964, the Order of Lincoln is the
7 State's highest civilian honor for professional achievement
8 and public service, honoring Illinois residents whose work
9 uplifts every community in the State; and

10 WHEREAS, Lester McKeever, born and raised in Chicago, made
11 history in 1960 when he became the 60th Black Certified Public
12 Accountant (CPA) in the United States; today, he is a leader
13 across the industries of accounting, business, and finance;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Lester McKeever began his undergraduate education
16 at the University of Illinois' short-lived Navy Pier satellite
17 campus before transferring to the University of Illinois
18 Urbana-Champaign, where he became a member of the Kappa Alpha
19 Psi Fraternity, Inc. and received his Bachelor of Science in
20 Accounting in 1955; he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1957,
21 serving for two years; he obtained his CPA license in 1960; he
22 later earned his Juris Doctor from the Illinois Institute of

1 Technology's Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1971; and

2 WHEREAS, Lester McKeever began his accounting career at
3 the Unity Mutual Life Insurance Company and worked as a
4 part-time assistant during tax season for Mary T. Washington,
5 the first Black woman to earn her CPA license, who became his
6 mentor and introduced him to the accounting field; and

7 WHEREAS, After his military service, Lester McKeever
8 returned to accounting, taking a full-time position at Mary
9 Washington's firm, Washington and Pittman, which was
10 eventually renamed Washington, Pittman & McKeever and where he
11 was named managing partner in 1976; and

12 WHEREAS, Lester McKeever was appointed as board chairman
13 of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in 1997, a position he
14 held until 2001; and

15 WHEREAS, Lester McKeever has been a passionate civic
16 leader and advocate for increasing diversity in the accounting
17 profession, serving on the Finance Committee under Chicago
18 Mayors Harold Washington and Richard M. Daley and holding
19 leadership positions in a number of organizations, including
20 the American Association of Attorney-CPAs (AAA-CPA), the
21 Chicago Urban League, the Commercial Club of Chicago, the
22 Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, the Illinois CPA

1 Society, the Illinois Institute of Technology, the
2 Metropolitan Planning Council, the National Society of Black
3 CPAs, the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, and the
4 United Way of Metropolitan Chicago; and

5 WHEREAS, Lester McKeever has received a number of
6 accolades during his career, becoming the namesake of the
7 Lester H. McKeever Jr. Advancing Diversity Award by the
8 Illinois CPA Society in 2016 and receiving the Gold Medal
9 Award of Distinction by the American Institute of Certified
10 Public Accountant (AICPA) in 2018; and

11 WHEREAS, Lester McKeever and his fellow 2024 Lincoln
12 Laureates join more than 350 distinguished Illinois residents
13 of the Order of Lincoln since its inception, and they will be
14 honored at the 60th annual Convocation and Investiture at the
15 Chicago History Museum on April 13, 2024; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we congratulate Lester H. McKeever Jr. on being named a 2024
19 Lincoln Laureate of the Order of Lincoln, and we recognize his
20 service and dedication to the residents of Illinois; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to Lester McKeever as an expression of our esteem
2 and respect.