

Legislation Text

File #: 170527, **Version:** 0

Naming Paschall Avenue, between South 64th Street and South 65th Street, "Albert Willis Way," in honor Albert Willis, the Commander of William P. Roche American Legion Post #21 and 1st District Commander of Pennsylvania, to commemorate his life and service to the City of Philadelphia and the United States of America.

WHEREAS, Albert F. Willis is a native of the City of Philadelphia, serving as an acolyte for St. Augustus High Episcopal Church and a graduate from Central High School in Philadelphia in 1939. Mr. Willis earned his Bachelor of Science Degree at Knoxville College and also holds a Master of Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, Albert F. Willis was among the first Black Philadelphians to drive for the City's streetcar and bus services, including the 40 Trolley West from South Street and the G bus from City Line to the Navy Yard. Mr. Willis was also among the first Black Philadelphians to be employed as a prison guard at Holmesburg Prison. He also would go on to serve in the Philadelphia Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Albert F. Willis further served the Philadelphia community as a manager with the Area K North Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, a manager with the Philadelphia Housing Authority, the president of the West Philadelphia Anti-Poverty Program, and as an administrative assistant to Congressman William Gray; and

WHEREAS, Albert F. Willis is also an active member of the Silver Beaver Scouts, serves as the P.M. of Benjamin #138 Lodge. He is also the oldest living Potentate of Pyramid Temple #1 of Masons and for 22 years has served as the Exalted Ruler of L.C.I Elk Lodge #994; and

WHEREAS, Albert F. Willis was among the first Black Americans to be accepted into the United States Marine and is a distinguished combat veteran; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That the dedicated service of Albert F. Willis to the City of Philadelphia is honored and that Paschall Avenue, between South 64th Street and South 65th Street, shall henceforth be known as "Albert Willis Way".

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Albert F. Willis as evidence of the sincere respect and appreciation of this legislative body.