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## TRIBUTE TO JUDGE THEODORE MCMILLIAN

*HON. CLARENCE HARMON\**

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In his 1994 inaugural address, President Nelson Mandela of South Africa reminded us of the importance of not judging talent based on skin color. He said:

It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous? Actually who are you *not* to be? Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

Judge McMillian has not shrunk from his talents. Indeed, he has used his talents throughout his life to serve our St. Louis community. He is a positive role model to people everywhere who are struggling to let the light within them shine.

In his court, Judge McMillian has presided over legal cases of great concern to our country. He has done so with fairness and integrity. Outside of his courtroom, Judge McMillian has brought intelligence and insight to discussions about juvenile delinquency, employment discrimination, affirmative action, and other issues of great importance to the progress of our nation. As a founder of the Herbert Hoover Boys & Girls Club and other local community

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\* Mayor, City of St. Louis, Missouri.

organizations, he has also played an outstanding role in supporting young people.

In Judge McMillian's office there is a sign that reads: "It is more important to be human than it is to be important." Any one who knows him can vouch for the fact that this is a philosophy he lives by. He is a leader we can all admire. He is an example we would all do well to follow.