

EESW

RESOLUTION NO. 15 - 2026

**RECOGNIZING** Helen Rankin and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati for Representative Rankin’s lifetime of accomplishment and representation of the city of Cincinnati in the Ohio State House.

WHEREAS, Helen Rankin, born on September 12, 1936, made history as the first African American woman to serve in the Ohio House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Representative Rankin was appointed in 1978 to fill the seat of her late husband, Representative James W. Rankin, and she subsequently earned the confidence of her constituents through election and re-election, serving with distinction until 1994; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Representative Rankin was a dedicated public servant known for her commitment to constituent service, often making herself personally accessible to those she represented; and

WHEREAS, Representative Rankin championed critical issues affecting women, children, and families, including landmark legislation requiring insurance coverage for mammograms and cervical cancer screenings, advancing access to life-saving healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Representative Rankin overcame barriers as a trailblazer in public service, navigating challenges as the only Black woman in the legislature at the time, and helping to pave the way for future generations of leaders; and

WHEREAS, Representative Rankin’s legacy reflects perseverance, compassion, and a steadfast dedication to equity, justice, and public service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize Helen Rankin for her lifetime of accomplishment and representation of the city of Cincinnati in the Ohio State House.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to Helen Rankin through the office of Vice Mayor Jan Michele Kearney.

Passed: April 1, 2026

Attest: [Signature]  
Clerk

[Signature]  
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Submitted by Vice Mayor Jan Michele Kearney