

proclamation

Leberta Israel Wilson Day | June 6, 2026

WHEREAS, in 1940 Leberta Israel Wilson was born in Jacksonville, Florida, to Elsie Belfon and Rush Gates Jr., and was lovingly raised by her stepparents, Clarence “Pee-wee” and Bernice Silas Hall; and

WHEREAS, she attended elementary school in Winter Park and graduated from Hungerford High School in Eatonville, Florida; and

WHEREAS, deeply rooted in Winter Park’s rich history, Ms. Wilson is the great-granddaughter of Frank R. Israel and Walter B. Simpson, who served on the Winter Park City Commission from 1887 to 1893, and helped shape the foundation of the community; and

WHEREAS, she was a devoted member of Ward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, a congregation co-founded by her great-grandfathers, alongside other pioneering families who helped establish and strengthen the Winter Park community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wilson faithfully served her church as a Deaconess and Stewardess, dedicating countless years of supporting her congregation, uplifting others through her steadfast faith and servant leadership; and

WHEREAS, she devoted her professional life to nursing, providing compassionate care to patients at Sunland Hospital in Orlando, serving as an Emergency Room Nurse at Orlando Regional Hospital for 30 years, and continuing through more than five years of service with VITAS Hospice; and

WHEREAS, through her unwavering faith, commitment to her family, dedication to her profession, and service to her community, Ms. Wilson leaves a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations; and

WHEREAS, her life was a testament to compassion, perseverance and service, and her memory will be cherished by her family, friends and all the lives who were touched by her kindness and care.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sheila DeCiccio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Winter Park, in the state of Florida, do hereby proclaim **Saturday, June 6, 2026**, as “Leberta Israel Wilson Day” in Winter Park, Florida, in her honor.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Winter Park, Florida, to be affixed this 3rd day of June 2026.

Sheila DeCiccio
Mayor