

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY REPRESENTATIVE ILLG

A RESOLUTION

To commend Volkert, Inc., on the one hundredth anniversary of its charter.

WHEREAS, Volkert was founded as a family-run engineering firm named Doullut & Ewin in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1925, and was chartered "to act as civil engineers in all capacities"; the firm's corporate headquarters was established in 1946 in Mobile, Alabama, and the company operated as Ewin Engineering throughout the 1950s; the firm was purchased by David Volkert, an engineer and test pilot during World War II, in 1954 and renamed Volkert, Inc., in 1963; and

WHEREAS, Volkert has contributed to some of the most significant American infrastructure projects of the twentieth century; the company was selected to develop the bridges of the Mobile Bay Causeway and played an integral role in the execution of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project following the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927; it expanded the Alabama State Docks during World War II and developed dry docks for Liberty Ships to support the country's supply and logistics for the war effort; and

WHEREAS, the firm partnered with Waterman Steamship Company to expand the Port of Mobile, and it played an integral role in the early development of the National Interstate Highway System; after rebranding as Volkert, Inc., the company designed the world's longest bridge over water, the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway in Louisiana, which opened in 1969; and

WHEREAS, Volkert designed the I-10 Twin Span Bridge and the Mobile Bayway, which opened in 1978; the firm designed Interstate 565, connecting the city of Huntsville, Alabama, to the National Interstate Highway System upon its opening in 1991; the firm led

the development of the Cochrane Africatown Bridge in Mobile, Alabama, which opened in 1992 and is the only cable-stay bridge in the state; and

WHEREAS, Volkert has contributed to a number of restoration projects, such as working to preserve the USS Alabama and the USS Drum and designing the restoration of Alabama's coast at Bayou La Batre following Hurricane Katrina; the firm designed the interchange of Interstate 22 and Interstate 65 and the renewal of Interstate 59 and Interstate 20 in Birmingham, which are two of the largest transportation projects in the history of the state; and

WHEREAS, Volkert has been inducted into the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame along with three of its leaders and eight of its projects; and

WHEREAS, Volkert is made up of more than one thousand five hundred employees who are located in sixty offices across twenty-five states; the firm established an employee stock ownership plan, making it 100% employee-owned; and

WHEREAS, Volkert, Inc., celebrated the one-hundredth anniversary of its founding on February 4, 2025, and its employee-owners are most deserving of the highest recognition for this momentous achievement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Volkert, Inc., on the one hundredth anniversary of its founding; does hereby recognize Volkert, Inc., as a pivotal force in the history of American civil engineering; and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that the firm and its employee-owners continue to prosper in all of their endeavors for many more years to come.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES