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For Immediate Release

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER GEOFFREY STARKS

WASHINGTON, February 27, 2024—FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks issued the following statement on the recent passing of former Federal Communications Commission Chairman Charles D. Ferris:

“I am greatly saddened to hear of Chairman Ferris’ passing. His career in public service is an inspiration and his leadership of the Commission during the Carter Administration laid the groundwork for so many of the technological advances of the past 40 years. Under his tenure, Chairman Ferris helped reshape the communications marketplace by allowing AT&T to use computers in its networks, removing rate regulation on telephone equipment, and supporting the growth of cable television. Consumers still benefit from his foresight today.

It is also fitting that we remember Chairman Ferris in February, Black History Month, as he was integral to the enactment of both the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Chairman Ferris will be missed, but the positive impact he has had on the country and so many will not be forgotten.”

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).