

New Business
10.2.2018

**TESTIMONIAL
RESOLUTIONS
AND SPECIAL
PRIVILEGE**

34

RESOLUTION
In Memoriam
Melvin Brazier, Jr.

- Whereas,** We, the members of the **Detroit City Council**, solemnly pause today to recognize and bestow homage upon the late, Melvin Brazier, Sr., a beloved family member; **and**
- Whereas,** **MELVIN BRAZIER, JR.** was born on March 12, 1942, in Eufaula, Alabama. He was the third child born to the late Hattie and Melvin Brazier, Sr. **MELVIN BRAZIER, JR.** was preceded in death by his siblings: Norman and Edward. **MELVIN BRAZIER, JR.** accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at First African Baptist Church in Eufaula, Alabama. Later in life he joined Bible Believer Baptist Church of Cerritos, CA.; **and**
- Whereas,** **MELVIN'S** parents encouraged all their children to seek higher education. After graduating from T.V. McCoo High School in 1960, he attended Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, graduating in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering. Later, he obtained a Master of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). **MELVIN BRAZIER, JR.** began his career with George C. Marshall Space Center in Huntsville, Alabama. After spending a year with George C. Marshall Space Center, his love for mathematics and science led him to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Cape Canaveral, Florida as in engineer; **and**
- Whereas,** Due to social inequality and the treatment of African Americans in the south, **MELVIN BRAZIER, JR.** decided to hit Route 66 to California in pursuit of better opportunities. He joined Hughes Aircraft designing helicopters for the Department of Defense. He later transitioned to Thomas Ramos Wooldridge, (TRW, Inc.) as a field engineer. As his career continued to grow, he moved into a Senior Test Engineer position. In 1998, **MELVIN BRAZIER, JR.** retired from Northrop Grumman formerly known as TRW, Inc. His entrepreneurial spirit rose after retirement and he started many business ventures specializing in real estate projects throughout Southern California. As he traveled the world during retirement, he enjoyed the continental United States and abroad especially, France and Australia. **MELVIN BRAZIER, JR.** never lost the thirst for sharing knowledge whether solicited or unsolicited with his family, especially his sisters Ann and Carrie. He loved to talk about politics, often spending hours on the phone discussing the latest political issues. He was overjoyed in November 2008, when a young Senator named Barak Obama won the presidency of the United States of America; **and**
- Whereas,** On Thursday, August 30, 2018, **MELVIN BRAZIER, JR.** was called home for eternal rest. *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."* 2 Timothy 4:7. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- Resolved,** That the **Detroit City Council** and the office of **Council President Brenda Jones** hereby expresses its condolences and joins with family and friends in celebrating the life of **MELVIN BRAZIER, JR.**

Brenda Jones

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Manny Sheffield

PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Janice L. Ayers

COUNCIL MEMBER

Scott B. ...

COUNCIL MEMBER

Raquel Castañeda-López

COUNCIL MEMBER

Ashley ...

COUNCIL MEMBER

...

COUNCIL MEMBER

Andre J. Spivey

COUNCIL MEMBER

JTB

COUNCIL MEMBER

September 7, 2018

DATE

Testimonial Resolution

Spirit of Detroit 60th Anniversary

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners of the Detroit-Wayne Joint Building Authority (DWJBA) and elected officials of the City of Detroit and County of Wayne, are pleased to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the "Spirit of Detroit" sculpture. The iconic sculpture was commissioned in 1955, dedicated on September 23, 1958 and reaches its official 60th Anniversary on September 23, 2018. We would also like to acknowledge and give special thanks to the members of the 60th Anniversary advisory planning committee for helping to make this commemorative event a reality; and

WHEREAS, The widely-recognized "Spirit of Detroit" sculpture was first envisioned by sculptor artist Marshall M. Fredericks, who was commissioned by the Detroit-Wayne Joint Building Authority. Work on the sculpture began in 1955, when a cast was made in Oslo, Norway and transported by ship to the City of Detroit; and

WHEREAS, Created as a symbol of the basic hope of humanity and the spirit of man, the sculpture has become the iconic treasure of the city and is recognized throughout the world as a global landmark representing the City of Detroit. The sculpture emphasized the symbolism of progress for the city, representing that the "Spirit of Detroit" endures forever. A plaque placed in front of the statue further supports the use of religion and sentimental meaning which was important to sculptor Fredericks. The plaque reads: "God, through the spirit of man is manifested in the family, the noblest human relationship." The marble wall behind the sculpture features a verse from the bible in 2 Corinthians, and the seals of both the City of Detroit and Wayne County are prominently displayed; and

WHEREAS, In the left hand is the gilt bronze sphere emanating rays to symbolize divinity and God, while its right hand holds a family being lifted up by the "Spirit of Detroit," symbolizing all human relationships. Sculptor Fredericks sought a consensus from representatives of several different religions when designing the God aspect of the work. The sphere idea was the consensus Fredericks wanted to represent and inspire Detroiters; and

WHEREAS, When installed, the 26-foot sculpture was the largest cast bronze statue since the Renaissance period. In 2008, \$170,000 in restoration improvements were made to the "Spirit of Detroit" sculpture, in time for its 50th Anniversary. Restoration funds came from operational saving; primarily through energy conservation. Today's appraised value is \$6 million. As a goal of the Detroit-Wayne Joint Building Authority, the sculpture has become the recognized image for various city departments; and

WHEREAS, The "Spirit of Detroit" means so many things to so many people. This monumental sculpture represents the spirit of the city and its people. It is an important part of Detroit's legacy and will play a pivotal role in its future. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council and office of Council President Brenda Jones, does hereby award this Testimonial Resolution to the Detroit-Wayne Joint Building Authority (DWJBA) in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the "Spirit of Detroit" statue.

Brenda Jones
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mary Sheffield
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Gary J. Cox
COUNCIL MEMBER

Scott R. Brown
COUNCIL MEMBER

Raquel Castañeda-Joppy
COUNCIL MEMBER

Dabe Leland
COUNCIL MEMBER

[Signature]
COUNCIL MEMBER

Greg J. Spring
COUNCIL MEMBER

[Signature]
COUNCIL MEMBER

September 21, 2018

DATE

Testimonial Resolution

34

Rev. Buell David Curry
Pastoral Installation

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure and privilege that we, the members of the Detroit City Council, extend congratulations to REV. BUELL DAVID CURRY as he is officially installed as the Pastor of Wayside Missionary Baptist Church on September 30, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Born in Houston, Texas and raised on Detroit's eastside, BUELL CURRY attended Transfiguration Elementary and Middle School. He graduated from Loyola High School and later enrolled at Wayne State University and the University of Phoenix, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Human Services; and

WHEREAS, He grew up under the tutelage and pastoral leadership of the late Rev. Dr. Sterling L. Jones of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. REV. CURRY first experienced God's power at age five when he made his confession of faith and was baptized. Through the years, he served the church in many capacities as a member of the usher board and choir, co-president of the youth department and junior deacon. In 2007, he accepted the call of God upon his life to preach the gospel. He started preaching for the Baptist training union, revivals, conferences, other churches and occasionally filled in for Dr. Jones at guest churches on his behalf. In March 2014, REV. CURRY was ordained under Dr. Jones, with Pastor Curtis Grant of the Zion Hope Baptist Church performing the ceremony and ordination process. Along the way, he received valuable training and wisdom from both Pastor Grant and Bishop Michael Jones of Fountain of Truth Church. At Mt. Zion, REV. CURRY served as an associate minister and also taught Sunday school and Men's bible study. He was eventually appointed to teach bible study for the entire church membership. The Mt. Zion bible study class grew by leaps and bounds under his teaching tenure; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the clergy, REV. CURRY has executed many administrative and ministerial duties. He is also actively engaged in community outreach and served for several years under Pastor Vincent Yancey, developing programs to educate, build social awareness and teach the virtues of life to inner-city youth. REV. CURRY values the life lessons learned from his late grandfather, Deacon Buell Porter, his grandmother, Deaconess Mary L. Porter and mother, Evangelist Dr. Denyse P. Jones, and other family members that have helped him get to this point. REV. CURRY is the devoted husband of Kathleen Raytea Curry and proud father of their daughter, Zion Aleece Curry. REV. BUELL DAVID CURRY is an anointed teacher of the Gospel, who uses his gifts and talents to praise, empower and encourage the people of God. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council and office of Council President Brenda Jones, hereby joins with friends and family in honoring REV. BUELL DAVID CURRY on this momentous occasion of his official Pastoral Installation.

Handwritten signatures of Council members and Council President Brenda Jones, with printed names and titles below each signature.

September 30, 2018

DATE

CITY CLERK 2018 SEP 28 PM12:23

Testimonial Resolution ³⁷

Deborah Fitzgerald Copeland

Whereas, It is with great pleasure and privilege that we, the members of the **Detroit City Council**, recognize and bestow honor upon **Deborah Fitzgerald Copeland**, for her dedication and service to the Detroit Fisk Club; **and**

Whereas, **DEBORAH FITZGERALD COPELAND** was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. She graduated from Central High School in June of 1966. Being a third generation Fiskite, she would attend Fisk University from 1966-1970, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in English. Later, she would attend Atlanta University, English Master's Program; **and**

Whereas, Two years after graduating from Fisk University, **DEBORAH FITZGERALD COPELAND** returned to teach Freshman English from 1972-1974. Upon returning to Michigan, she worked for the Bell Broadcasting Company, (WJZZ/WCHB) from 1974-1994. She first held the position of Account Executive and later accepted a position as Local Sales Manager. From 2002-2007, **DEBORAH FITZGERALD COPELAND** worked at N'Namdi Gallery as Assistant Manager; **and**

Whereas, **DEBORAH FITZGERALD COPELAND** married her childhood and Fisk University classmate, Wilson Albert Copeland on December 29, 1971. From that union they were blessed with a daughter, Lauren Fitzgerald Copeland N'Namdi, a son-in-law Jumaane N'Namdi, and one special granddaughter, Nataki N'Namdi; **and**

Whereas, **DEBORAH FITZGERALD COPELAND** has served on the board of many organizations: Detroit Fisk Club, Nataki Talibah Schoolhouse, Behavioral Health of Henry Ford Health System and Palmer Woods Association. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Beta Chapter. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

Resolved, That the **Detroit City Council** and **Council President Brenda Jones**, hereby presents this Testimonial Resolution to **DEBORAH FITZGERALD COPELAND** for her positive contributions to the Detroit Fisk Club.

Brenda Jones
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mary Sheffield
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM
Jay D. Byrd
COUNCIL MEMBER
Scott R. Brown
COUNCIL MEMBER
Raquel Castañeda-Jones
COUNCIL MEMBER

Dabe Oshun
COUNCIL MEMBER
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COUNCIL MEMBER

September 15, 2018
DATE

Testimonial Resolution

38

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN DAY

Whereas, Nearly six million children and 1.5 million grandparents currently live in grandparent-grandchild households. These households face unique daily challenges. Grandparents caring for grandchildren provide a critical service for the benefit of the children and the children's parents, but also it provides a benefit to the public responsibility; **and**

Whereas, Grandparent caregiving is not a new phenomenon; Kin care has historically been part of family life here in the United States. President Barack Obama familial experiences is one notable example of this practice. Since the mid-1990s, several social conditions have caused the number of grandparents who are raising their grandchildren to increase significantly. Parental addition and incarceration, child abuse and neglect, and economic factors all have contributed to a rise in the number of custodial grandparents; **and**

Whereas, As grandchild care has become more visible, concerns have arisen that these benefits may come at the cost of grandparents' well-being. The impact of caring for grandchildren on grandparents' health is a particular focus of concern. Compared with non-caregiving peers, grandparents who are raising their grandchildren have more extensive health problems. Often the grandchildren's needs are prioritized over those of the grandparents – whether financial, time or energy---particularly when there are limited resources; **and**

Whereas, Despite these challenges, these grandparents gladly take on the charge of loving and caring for their grandchildren. The reward to the family is greater than the cost; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

Resolved, That the **Detroit City Council** and office of **Council President Brenda Jones** in commemoration of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Day, salute all grandparents who selflessly assume the responsibility of rearing the next generation of strong American citizens, and declares the month of September 2018 "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Month".

Brenda Jones
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mary Sheffield
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Jon L. L...
COUNCIL MEMBER

Scott R...
COUNCIL MEMBER

Raquel Castañeda-Joyez
COUNCIL MEMBER

Dabe...
COUNCIL MEMBER

R...
COUNCIL MEMBER

Archie J. Spring
COUNCIL MEMBER

S...
COUNCIL MEMBER

September 14, 2018

DATE

CITY CLERK 2018 SEP 28 PM 12:23

Testimonial Resolution 39

NATIONAL BLACK MBA ASSOCIATION

Whereas, The National Black MBA Association was incorporated in 1971 in New York. In 1976, the third chapter of the association was incorporated in Detroit, Michigan, and has a mission to lead in the creation of educational opportunities and economic growth for Black professionals; and

Whereas, The National Black MBA Association is a membership organization comprised of over 10,000 members and 30 local chapters across the globe. The organization uses five channels of engagement: education, career, leadership, entrepreneurship, and lifestyle to create intellectual and economic wealth in the Black community; and

Whereas, The National Black MBA Association, the premier business organization for minority professionals launched its scholarship program in 1984 and has awarded over \$5 million to deserving students. In 1996, the National Black MBA Association established Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT), a leadership and development program for high school students. Students are taught Leadership, Financial Literacy, College Preparation, and Career Preparation. Over 8,000 talented youth have been mentored through this program; and

Whereas, In October 1979, the National Black MBA Association, held its 1st annual conference and exposition in Detroit, Michigan, with the theme, "The Black MBA: Challenges, Opportunities, Problems, and Expectations". On September 25-29, 2018, the National Black MBA Association will hold its 40th annual conference and exposition in Detroit, Michigan, at COBO Center with the theme, "One Voice, One Mission. Mr. Jesse Tyson is the President & Chief Executive Officer of National Black MBA Association, and Mrs. Paulina Johnson is the Detroit Chapter's President. The National Black MBA Association appreciates them for their dedication and leadership. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

Resolved, That the Detroit City Council and office of Council President Brenda Jones recognizes and welcomes the National Black MBA Association to the City of Detroit.

Signatures of Council President Brenda Jones and Council Members Mance Sheffield, George L. Johnson, Scott B. Johnson, Raquel Castañeda-López, Dabe Laund, and Charles J. Spring.

September 25-29, 2018
DATE

Testimonial Resolution **40**
Claudia Mae Freeman Miller
Happy 100th Birthday




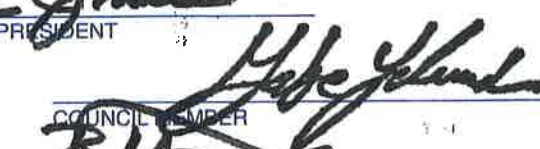

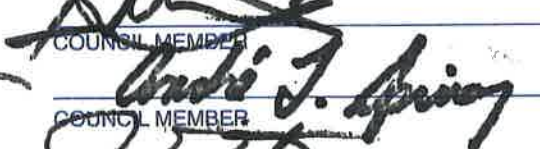


WHEREAS Claudia Mae Freeman Miller was born September 29, 1918 in Heflin, Alabama. She is the oldest twin to her brother, James, who proceeded her in death. Although Claudia gave birth to only one child, John Edward, she is known as Mother to many. She came to Detroit, Michigan with her family to live when she was sixteen years old; and

WHEREAS Claudia and her brother James had an open-door policy at the home they shared on Montclair and Charlevoix (on the eastside of Detroit) and it was where family members migrating from the south could come and live until they got on their feet. This act began a beautiful relationship with the Montclair Street community. She became known around the neighborhood for cooking her large Sunday and Holiday dinners and feeding and clothing people; and

WHEREAS Claudia and her brother James were co-presidents of the Montclair Block Club and won many awards for their elaborate Christmas decorations throughout the 1960's and 1970's. She was a faithful member of the Mary Palmer Methodist Church and a member of the Church Bowling Team; and

WHEREAS Claudia retired from the Pontchartrain Hotel where she received an award for 30 years of Service. She also received a letter from President Bill Clinton and medals from her track days as a teenager, just to name a few. Recently, she was captured in a photo by CNN News with her great great grandson, Edward, as he wheeled her in line to pay her respects to the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin at the public viewing at New Bethel Baptist Church. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED That the **Detroit City Council, Office of Council President Brenda Jones along with family and friends** would like to take this time to honor you as we celebrate your Special Day. Happy 100th Birthday, your family loves you! May God continue to bless you!

 _____ COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM	 _____ COUNCIL PRESIDENT
 _____ COUNCIL MEMBER	 _____ COUNCIL MEMBER
 _____ COUNCIL MEMBER	 _____ COUNCIL MEMBER
 _____ COUNCIL MEMBER	 _____ COUNCIL MEMBER

September 29, 2018

DATE