

3-26-19

**TESTIMONIAL
RESOLUTIONS
AND SPECIAL
PRIVILEGE**

Testimonial Resolution

85

EARL C. WINFREY

December 11, 1927 – March 7, 2019

In Memoriam

WHEREAS

Earl C. Winfrey was born December 11, 1927 in Grays, Arkansas to the union of Alex and Lily Grant Winfrey. He was one of seven children. While in Arkansas he met the love of his life, Doris Evelyn Branch. By 1953 they united in holy matrimony; and

WHEREAS

Earl C. Winfrey moved his family to Detroit, Michigan where they became homeowners on the city's Northwest side. They lived there for over forty years together. The couple adored traveling throughout the United States and spending quality time with family. They remained in holy matrimony for sixty-three years; and

WHEREAS

Earl C. Winfrey as affectionately known by his grandchildren as, "Big Pops". He enjoyed hosting Easter Egg Hunts, Super Bowl parties, and family reunions. He especially loved baking Christmas cookies with his grandchildren and their friends; and

WHEREAS

Earl C. Winfrey was not only a dedicated family man but was also devoted to the Adat Shalom Synagogue. There he spent forty-four years as the Head Custodian. He possessed a strong will but kind heart and relished in serving his community inside and out of the synagogue; and

WHEREAS

It being the will of our Lord to call our beloved home after a long life of service, Earl C. Winfrey transitioned from this life, from labor to reward; **THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED

That the Office of Councilman Scott Benson and Detroit City Council expresses their deepest condolences and share their sympathy in the loss of your loved one, **Earl C. Winfrey**. Your loss is heaven's gain. May God bless you and comfort you during this time and always.

Brenda Jones
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mary Sheffield
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Janice [Signature]
COUNCIL MEMBER

Scott Benson
COUNCIL MEMBER

Raquel Castañeda-López
COUNCIL MEMBER

Dante [Signature]
COUNCIL MEMBER

[Signature]
COUNCIL MEMBER

Andre J. Spivey
COUNCIL MEMBER

[Signature]
COUNCIL MEMBER

March 13, 2019

DATE

Testimonial Resolution

In Memoriam

DR. IVAN LOUIS COTMAN, SR.

CITY CLERK 2019 MAR 16 11:57 AM

WHEREAS, We, the members of the **Detroit City Council**, solemnly pause today to recognize and bestow homage upon the late, **Dr. Ivan Louis Cotman, Sr.**, a beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend to many, who made his heavenly transition on March 9, 2019; and

WHEREAS, A native Detroiter, **Ivan Louis Cotman** was born on April 4, 1940, to the late Louis and Marguerite Kaine Cotman. He was the eldest of two children. **Ivan** was baptized and confirmed at Old St. Mary's Church in Greektown, where he attended grade school. He graduated from Detroit's Salesian High School in 1958. **Ivan** earned a Bachelor's degree in English and Social Science from Kentucky State University, a Master's of Social Work degree from Clark Atlanta University, and a doctoral degree from Wayne State University in Educational Leadership and Administration. He also studied at Harvard's J.F.K. School of Government and the University of Manchester in England; and

WHEREAS, **Ivan** married Jeanetta Hawkins Cotman, the love of his life, on August 18, 1964, following a courtship which began during their college years at Kentucky State University. To this union three sons were born: Ivan, Arthur and Amir. **Ivan's** career began as a social worker with the Detroit Public Schools system. He also worked for United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit as the Agency Program Consultant/Assistant Budget Director, and with New Detroit as the Director of Employment. In 1973, **Ivan** joined the Michigan Department of Education (MDOE). From 1973 to 1994 he held several positions with the MDOE, including Assistant Superintendent and Director of the Office of Enrichment and Community Services. He served in the administrations of Michigan Governors Milliken, Blanchard and Engler. Following a five-year stint at Davenport University as Director of the Detroit office, **Dr. Cotman** established Cotman and Associates, a philanthropic consulting firm. His career in education administration spanned thirty-eight years; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Cotman** was civic minded and participated energetically on numerous local, regional and national boards. He also served as an elected member of the Detroit Board of Education; board member of United Way of Southeastern Michigan; Midwest Vice President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and was the thirty-third President of the Gamma Lambda Chapter in Detroit. His volunteer work involved projects in Israel, Nigeria and Dubai, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Roots Committee and the Moors Men's Club. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Jeanetta; sons, Ivan, Arthur and Amir; two daughters-in-law, Rene and Cassandra; four grandsons, Brandon, Jacob, Gray and Amir Jr.; three granddaughters, Janae, Chloe and Allie; and a host of friends, fraternity brothers and colleagues. **Dr. Ivan Louis Cotman** has been a good servant and ensured that his impact would be forever embedded in the hearts of those he cherished for years to come. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the offices of Alpha Phi Alpha Brothers **Councilman James E. Tate, Jr. and Councilman Scott Benson** as well as the entire **Detroit City Council**, hereby join with family and friends to honor the life and legacy of **Dr. Ivan Louis Cotman, Sr.**, a phenomenal man and an example for us to aspire to.

Mary Sheffield
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

James E. Tate, Jr.
COUNCIL MEMBER

Scott Benson
COUNCIL MEMBER

Raquel Castañeda-Tópay
COUNCIL MEMBER

Breake Jones
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Duke Johnson
COUNCIL MEMBER

[Signature]
COUNCIL MEMBER

Archie J. Spivey
COUNCIL MEMBER

[Signature]
COUNCIL MEMBER

March 16, 2019
DATE



Testimonial Resolution

MRS. WILLIE RUTH GAY-THOMAS

HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY!

CITY CLERK/CLERK OF COURTS

WHEREAS,

Willie Ruth was born to the late Julia Pearl London and John Thomas Palmer in Wrightsville, Georgia. While Willie Ruth was an only child, she was raised with her nine cousins who were more like siblings on their Grandparent's farm; AND

WHEREAS,

Mrs. Gay-Thomas was educated in the states of Georgia and Florida, receiving her GED in 1984, from Ruthruff Adult Education in Detroit, Michigan. She continued her education by becoming a licensed cosmetologist from Virginia Farrell Beauty Schools in 1990, received a Ministerial Training Certificate in 2006, and most recently receiving an Associates in Mental Health from Wayne County Community College in 2014 at age 75; AND

WHEREAS,

Mrs. Gay-Thomas began her family at the age of 16, marrying the late Elmo Gay, Sr., and to that union four children were born; Elmo, Jr., Julena, Bonita and Alvin. Willie Ruth later moved from Macon, GA to Detroit, Michigan in 1960, where she worked as a saleswoman at the historic J.L.Hudson's department store and eventually became a UAW member working with Ford Motor Company, as a Power Sewing Machine Operator. It was there she met Larnel Theodore Byrd, and they gave birth to her youngest daughter Sherry; AND

WHEREAS,

Mrs. Gay-Thomas always being a woman of faith, she gave her life to Christ in the year 1975 at Joy Temple Church of God and Christ, Pastor Ned Fultch. In 1978 she became a member of Greater Grace Temple where she has been active in the Missionary, Nursing Home and Prison Ministries and the Music. She remains an active member to this date, receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Mound Correctional Facility, and Huron Valley Correctional Facility for her participation in Greater Grace Temple Prison Ministry; AND

WHEREAS,

Known for her stylish attire, Willie Ruth enjoys making many of her own clothes as is a seamstress. She also enjoys singing, a gift that she helped to cultivate in her daughter, as well as traveling. She helped found two singing groups, Detroit Tones of Faith and Detroit Cavalettes. She has recently found love and married Willie Alphonso Thomas in September, 2018. Willie Ruth Gay-Thomas has overcome many adversities in life and has demonstrated how prayer and action can help one achieve anything regardless of age; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED,

That on this day, March 17, 2019, Councilman James E. Tate, Jr., and the entire Detroit City Council, hereby present this testimonial resolution as an expression of gratitude and esteem to Mrs. Willie Ruth Gay-Thomas in recognition of her 80th Birthday. May you continue to live your life to the fullest and be blessed with many more years to come!

Bruce Jones
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mary Sheffield
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

James Tate, Jr.
COUNCIL MEMBER

Scott Benson
COUNCIL MEMBER

Raquel Castañeda-Lopez
COUNCIL MEMBER

Gabe Leland
COUNCIL MEMBER

Andre Spivey
COUNCIL MEMBER

Andre J. Spivey
COUNCIL MEMBER

J. Tate
COUNCIL MEMBER

MARCH 17, 2019

DATE

