

VOTE
6/18/19

**TESTIMONIAL
RESOLUTIONS
AND SPECIAL
PRIVILEGE**

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL



Testimonial Resolution

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Detroit Alumnae Chapter

80th Anniversary

WHEREAS

On January 13, 1913, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was founded on the campus of Howard University by twenty-two collegiate women. The founders: Osceola McCarthy Adams, Marguerite Young Alexander, Winona Cargile Alexander, Ethel Cuff Black, Bertha Pitts Campbell, Zephyr Chisolm Carter, Edna Brown Coleman, Jessie McGuire Dent, Frederica Chase Dodd, Myra Davis Hemmings, Olive C. Jones, Jimmie Bugg Middleton, Pauline Oberdorfer Minor, Vashti Turley Murphy, Naomi Sewell Richardson, Mamie Reddy Rose, Eliza Pearl Shippen, Florence Jetcher Toms, Ethel Carr Watson, Wertie Blackwell Weaver, Madree Penn White and Edith Mott Young envisioned Delta Sigma Theta to become an organization dedicated to promoting academic excellence and providing assistance to those in need. For one hundred and six years, Delta Sigma Theta continues to flourish to uphold the legacy of its founders by providing dedicated service and a global voice and vision to the struggle of members of the African Diaspora. With more than 300,000 members in 940 undergraduate and alumnae chapters across the world, members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. have distinguished themselves globally as leaders, public servants and champions of human rights; **and,**

WHEREAS

On January 24, 1924, the vision and mission of Delta Sigma Theta led to the chartering of Tau Chapter - a combined chapter of collegiate and graduates and the first Delta chapter in the city of Detroit. However, on May 13, 1939, twenty-nine members: Mamie Alexander, Gladys Barthwell, Marguerite M. Bleach, Eleanor Boykin (Jones), Marian Carter, Ethel Childs (Baker), Phyllis Colden, Irene Duncan Wise, Hortense Pears, Maxine Pears (Worsham), Bertha Lantoin, Victoria McCall (Davenport), Ruby McClendon (Willis), Loretta McKee (Briscoe), Lucy B. Mary Morris, Sue Morton, Elizabeth Morton, Wilamette Mosby, Frances Owens, Ernestine Postles, Ester Randall (LaMarr), Ruth Routt (King), M. Louise Sims, Margret Smith, Zelma Sykes (Sparkles), Marian Taylor, Helen Thomas and Edith Watson (Bland) chartered the Alpha Pi Sigma Chapter to service graduate members of the Sorority. Renamed the Detroit Alumnae Chapter in 1958, the Chapter has provided exemplary service to the metropolitan Detroit area for eighty years and is home to one of the largest chapters in Delta with more than 800 active and financial members; **and,**

WHEREAS

In its eighty year history, the Detroit Alumnae Chapter has displayed a solid commitment to sisterhood, scholarship and service via the Sorority's Five Point Thrust - Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health and Political Awareness and Involvement. Locally, the Detroit Alumnae Chapter has sponsored numerous activities supporting youth, seniors, veterans, returning citizens and other vulnerable populations including the Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy, Delta GEMS, EMBODI, Expungement and Second Chance Fair, Children's Business Fair, Community Shred Day, College Planning 101, Dementia Caregivers Bootcamp, Voter Education Forums and many others. In addition, the Chapter serves as the catalyst for the Delta Service Through Detroit Foundation, Inc. (DSTFI), Minerva Education and Development Foundation (MEDF) and Delta Manor and has established collaborative initiatives with other local community groups and governmental agencies such as SASHA Center, Citizen Detroit, AARP, City of Detroit, United Negro College Fund and Wayne State University; **and,**

WHEREAS

The Detroit Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated is the recipient of numerous accolades due to its continuous commitment to build on a legacy of excellence to the City, the Sorority and the global community. In celebration of the Sorority's Centennial Celebration, the Chapter proudly hosted the National Torch Tour in Detroit and launched an 18 month exhibit at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. In addition, the Chapter has received numerous awards from the Sorority (nationally and regionally), the State of Michigan, the City of Detroit, the NAACP (Ida B. Wells Social Justice Award) and was named Best Sorority in the Best in Black Detroit Award for 2017 and 2018. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED

That on this day, June 8, 2019, Council Member James Tate Jr. and the entire Detroit City Council do hereby acknowledge and congratulate the Detroit Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. on 80 years of outstanding service to the metropolitan Detroit area. May you continue your dedication to improving the lives of Detroiters and the surrounding community through scholarship, service and sisterhood.

Brenda Jones
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mary Shipp
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

John S. Agnew
COUNCIL MEMBER

Scott Benson
COUNCIL MEMBER

Raquel Castañeda-López
COUNCIL MEMBER

Jackie Lee
COUNCIL MEMBER

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COUNCIL MEMBER

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COUNCIL MEMBER

June 8, 2019
DATE

Testimonial Resolution

In Memoriam

Joseph Christopher, Jr.

March 16, 1923 – June 3, 2019

CITY CLERK 2019 JUN 13 AM 10:55



WHEREAS

Joseph Christopher, Jr was born March 16, 1923 in Vicksburg, Mississippi. He served his country in the United States Army during World War II from 1944 -1947, serving honorably in Scotland, England, Germany, France, Holland and Czechoslovakia. He received an honorable discharge on February 7, 1947 and a World War II Victory Medal and Army of Occupation Metal; *and*

WHEREAS

Mr. Christopher was met on his return home to Mississippi with disrespect, violence and hate by police officers in Mississippi. He was badly beaten, thrown into jail and provided no medical attention. Days later his father located him and provided the medical attention he needed. It took him several months before he recovered from this heinous crime; *and*

WHEREAS

His spirit was not broken. **Mr. Christopher** came to Detroit and made it his lifelong home. He became a member of First Baptist Church and made a home on Solvay Street in Delray with his wife, Earline Cook Christopher; *and*

WHEREAS









Mr. Christopher is a 40 year Master Carpenter, whose father taught his sons, who then taught their sons. He worked in factories but also worked with his brother Elijah who opened a garage and car wash in Delray. He was accepted into an apprentice program, became a Master Carpenter, and practiced until he retired. He built homes in Ecorse, River Rouge, Southwest Detroit and Southfield; *and*

WHEREAS

Joseph Christopher, Jr. made his transition on June 3, 2019. He leaves to celebrate his life and works his Wife, Earline Cook Christopher; Daughter, Valarie Hunter Williams; Step-children, Geralyn, Barbara and Rickey Cook; Brother, Elijah Christopher, Sr.; Sister, Emma Nash; and a host of grandchildren, nephews, nieces, family, friends and community. **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED

Council Member Raquel Castañeda-López and the entire Detroit City Council extend our sincere sympathy to the family, friends and community of the late **Joseph Christopher, Jr.** We give tribute to a man who did not let the trials of life turn him but let his faith in God order his steps. Thank you **Joseph Christopher, Jr** for your commitment to our country and city. We commemorate your life on this day, June 14, 2019. Rest in Heavenly Peace.

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

June 14, 2019
DATE

Testimonial Resolution

In Memoriam

Dora Jean Jackson

December 14, 1934 – June 3, 2019

WHEREAS

Dora Jean Jackson was born December 14, 1934 in El Dorado, Arkansas to Deacon Charlie Wade and Mildred Kilgore. Her family also included two sisters, Lodine Jones and Janie Faye Wade; *and*

WHEREAS

Dora married Richard Jackson. This union produced five children. She cared for and loved her beautiful children, Sharon, Aquin, LaTanya, Regina, Alexander and the Brown family. **Dora** was a mother and care giver to many. There was no shortage of people she wanted to have the best life had to offer; *and*

WHEREAS

Dora took an active role in her west side community. She was active in local block clubs and was **President Emeritus of Midwest Civic Council of Block Clubs**. She won numerous awards in recognition of her community commitment including the Spirit of Detroit from Detroit City Council and a Recognition Award from the Detroit Police Department ; *and*

WHEREAS

Dora was famous among her loved ones for many things, road trips in her family van to family reunions or to her home town of El Dorado, Arkansas and block club parties on the block or at local parks. She also encouraged her extended family to help out during Thanksgiving and Christmas functions for the Midwest Civic Council and many other charitable community organization. Above all, just being as helpful as she could be when needed the most; *and*

WHEREAS

Dora Jean Jackson transitioned to her eternal resting place on June 3, 2019. Her life and journey will live on in four children, LaTonya, Aquin, Sharon and Alexander; eleven grandchildren, Rock, QuinTanya, Donille, RayShawn, LaSheina, LaDora, Rowna, La Chante, Roemel, Brendan, Ahmed; seventeen great grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; and, her canine companion Pepper. She was preceded in death by her mother Mildred, husband Richard, father Charlie, sisters Faye and Lodine and her daughter Regina. She will be missed by a host of family, friends and connections she made throughout her full and lively life time. **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED

Council Member Raquel Castañeda-López and the entire Detroit City Council extend our sincere sympathy to the family, friends and community of the late **Dora Jean Jackson**. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you cherish her memory and continue to build her legacy.

Brenda Jones
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mary Sheffield
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Janie Faye Wade
COUNCIL MEMBER

John Brown
COUNCIL MEMBER

Raquel Castañeda-López
COUNCIL MEMBER

Gabe R. L. L.
COUNCIL MEMBER

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COUNCIL MEMBER

June 14, 2019

DATE