

RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE FREDERICK “CURLY” NEAL

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, this community lost one of its outstanding community leaders with the passing of the late Frederick “Curly” Neal;

WHEREAS, Curly, a native of Greensboro, North Carolina (NC) graduated from James B. Dudley High School and matriculated to Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC where he averaged 23.1 points a game, earning him All-Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) honors;

WHEREAS, following his college career, Curly traveled worldwide and played for 22 seasons as a point guard with the Harlem Globetrotters from 1963 until his retirement in 1985, appearing in over 6,000 games in 97 countries;

WHEREAS, Curly was one of the more recognizable Globetrotters with his signature bald head, garnering his nickname as a reference to the *Three Stooges*’ Curly Howard, which accompanied by his comedic timing on the court, helped to showcase his athletic prowess as the “Dribbling Wizard”;

WHEREAS, his personality and talent helped him crossover into television, transforming him into an animated character in the Hanna-Barbera cartoon series for the *Harlem Globetrotters*, *Super Globetrotters*, and *Scooby-Doo* movie series, live-action Saturday morning children’s show *The Harlem Globetrotters Popcorn Machine*, appearances in *The White Shadow*, *Gilligan’s Island*, *The Ed Sullivan Show*, and *The Love Boat*, plus countless sports programs and national commercials;

WHEREAS, in 1986 Curly was inducted into the CIAA’s John B. McLendon Hall of Fame; into the prestigious Legends Ring for his major humanitarian contributions and work for the Harlem Globetrotters organization in 1993; and the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame in 2008;

WHEREAS, in 2008 his No. 22 jersey was retired in a ceremony in Madison Square Garden; and he continued to make appearances as a Globetrotter “Ambassador of Goodwill”;

WHEREAS, Curly’s legendary achievements as a Globetrotter and time at Dudley High School is memorialized as a mural in the basketball gym of the Hayes-Taylor Memorial Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA);

WHEREAS, Curly’s virtuoso ball-handling skills, charisma, genuineness, and infectious smile helped bring joy to millions of fans worldwide; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

1. That the City Council wishes to express its condolences, and offer its sincere appreciation and gratitude for his many years of dedicated service. His legacy will be remembered by the outstanding contributions he has made to the community.
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the family of the late Frederick “Curly” Neal as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for his many contributions to this community.