

RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE
STEPHEN LEONARD KNIER

WHEREAS, on October 31, 2014, this community lost one of its outstanding community leaders with the death of the late Stephen Leonard Knier;

WHEREAS, Knier, a native of Minnesota, graduated from the University of Minnesota and received an MBA from the University of Saint Thomas;

WHEREAS, during his career at Valspar Paints Knier served as a paint chemist and plant manager;

WHEREAS, during his tenure at Valspar he came to know LIFESPAN and was instrumental in the development of a work station in industry in the Statesville Valspar location;

WHEREAS, upon leaving the corporate world, he worked several years as an executive director for LIFESPAN in Greensboro, joined LIFESPAN in 2005, and was named one of the District Directors in July, 2006, after a twenty-five year career in the chemical industry;

WHEREAS, Knier assisted with the transformation of LIFESPAN from the sheltered workshop model to the Enrichment and Employment and Creative Campus model program that it is today;

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in securing the building on McClellan Place and merging the three Guilford County programs into one location as well as promoting the services of LIFESPAN;

WHEREAS, Knier served for over eight years on the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities in Greensboro, advocated for better transportation and accessibility, and assisted in organizing the annual Shoppers' Day for persons with disabilities;

WHEREAS, while a member of the Committee, Knier was instrumental in conceptualizing and planning the original Ramp-a-thon;

WHEREAS, Knier was instrumental in growing the LIFESPAN program to where it is today, and collaborated with the community college of Appalachian State University on the design of the "green" greenhouse;

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to express its sense of loss and its sincere appreciation and gratitude for the many years of dedicated public service rendered by Stephen Leonard Knier, the outstanding contributions he has made to the community, and the legacy he leaves.

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

1. That the City Council hereby expresses, on behalf of the citizens of Greensboro, a deep sense of loss and a feeling of respect and gratitude for the life of Stephen Leonard Knier.
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the family of the late Stephen Leonard Knier as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for his many contributions to this community.