

RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE
JAMES ROOSEVELT HARRIS

WHEREAS, on January 4, 2016, this community lost one of its outstanding community leaders with the death of the late James Roosevelt Harris;

WHEREAS, Harris, was a native of Murfreesboro where he attended grade school and high school and obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree and Masters of Science Degree in biology from North Carolina A&T State University;

WHEREAS, while serving his country in the U.S. Army, Harris was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany for most of his military career before continuing his service as a member of the Army Reserve;

WHEREAS, Harris was one of the first African Americans to work in the laboratory at Moses Cone Hospital, as a registered cytotechnologist; and later retired after 21 years in medical sales at Ames, a division of Miles Laboratories (Bayer Corporation);

WHEREAS, Harris served on numerous community, civic and religious boards which included Hayes-Taylor YMCA, North Carolina A&T State University Foundation Board of Directors, and the Greensboro Zoning Commission;

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Greensboro Human Relations Commission in the mid-sixties; a Life Member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, and while a member of Providence Baptist Church, he was a former Boy Scout Leader and was ordained as a Deacon in 1969;

WHEREAS, Harris was a civil rights activist who challenged the Greensboro City School System on the application of the Freedom of Choice policy that opened the door for African American children to attend all-white schools and played an integral part in further integrating Greensboro City Schools;

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 James Roosevelt Harris, 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 James Roosevelt Harris.
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the family of the late James Roosevelt Harris as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for his many contributions to this community.