

RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE
DOCTOR JOHN MARSHALL KILIMANJARO, SR. (NÉ STEVENSON)

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2019, this community lost one of its outstanding community leaders with the passing of the late Doctor John Marshall Kilimanjaro, Sr. at the age of 88;

WHEREAS, Dr. Kilimanjaro, Sr. was born June 6, 1930 in Little Rock, Arkansas as John Marshall Stevenson; he later changed his name to reflect the “origin of his birth”;

WHEREAS, he attended Tougaloo College in Mississippi; became a charter member of the Rho Epsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1948; earned a B.A. degree in English in 1952 from Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College, which is known today as the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; and was one of seven African-American students to attend the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville where he earned a Masters of Art and Doctoral degree in Speech, Theatre Arts, and English Literature in 1965;

WHEREAS, Dr. Kilimanjaro was a competition-winning pianist while at the University of Arkansas, playing for Chi Omega and Delta Delta Delta sororities;

WHEREAS, he served our country with both the United States Marine Corps in Europe and the United States Navy as a Naval Hospital Corpsman during the Korean War; and was honorably discharged from both service branches;

WHEREAS, Dr. Kilimanjaro became a faithful member of Temple Emanuel in Greensboro in 1955;

WHEREAS, as Secretary of the Greensboro National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1958 he helped arranged a speech for Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and he attended Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963;

WHEREAS, Dr. Kilimanjaro was instrumental in establishing North Carolina Agricultural & Technical Speech and Theatre Arts Department; NC A&T’s Chapter of the American Association of University Professors; was a member of Alpha Psi Omega; National Honor Society of Dramatic Arts; Sigma Delta Chi; National Journalism Honor Society; Phi Delta Kappa; and Beta Gamma Sigma;

WHEREAS, he co-founded the Carolina Peacemaker in 1967 where he sought to publish news on issues and events vital to the African American community presenting minority viewpoints;

WHEREAS, Dr. Kilimanjaro covered the scene of the 1969 NC A&T/Dudley High School uprising where he was the only African American person permitted to be out past curfew to cover the story;

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Carolina Peacemaker received numerous journalism awards from the North Carolina Press Association; the National Newspaper Publishers Association; and was selected as the Samuel E. Cornish Publisher of the Year in 2006;

WHEREAS, Dr. Kilimanjaro was awarded the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Mike Easley in 2002 for his “significant contributions to the state and community through exemplary service and exceptional accomplishments”;

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to express its sense of loss and sincere appreciation and gratitude for the many years of dedicated public service rendered by Dr. John Marshall Kilimanjaro, Sr., for 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 wishes to express its condolences, and offer its sincere appreciation and gratitude for John Marshall Kilimanjaro’s many years of dedicated public service. His legacy will be remembered by the outstanding contributions he made to the community.
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the family of the late Dr. John Marshall Kilimanjaro as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for his many contributions to this community.