

RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE  
RUSSELL WIGGIN BARRETT

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2020, this community lost one of its outstanding community leaders with the passing of the late Russell Wiggin Barrett at the age of 91;

WHEREAS, Russell Wiggin Barrett was born May 22, 1929 in Pitt County, North Carolina; and was the son of sharecroppers on the Cotton Dale Plantation;

WHEREAS, Mr. Barrett began his education at Bruce Falkland Elementary School, (now Falkland Elementary School,) a three room school for the education of African-American students in Greenville, North Carolina at that time; graduated from H. B Sugg High School, a historically black school in Farmville, North Carolina; earned a four-year Mortician's Degree in Mortuary Science from Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service in Nashville, Tennessee, as one of two African-Americans in the class, although he did not pursue a career in this field; earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Arts Education from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University (NCA&T) School of Technology; and also a Master's Degree in Industrial Arts/Counseling from NCA&T;

WHEREAS, Mr. Barrett served in the United States Army, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division from 1948 to 1952 as a Private First Class; and earned a Good Conduct Medal;

WHEREAS, in 1955, while at NC A & T, then part of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), Mr. Barrett was awarded a Golden Glove in boxing;

WHEREAS, utilizing his educational degrees, Mr. Barrett taught at the historic Church Street School in Thomasville, North Carolina; continued his teaching career at Kiser Junior High School (now known as Kiser Middle School) in Greensboro North Carolina; and retired after serving forty years as an educator;

WHEREAS, Mr. Barrett was awarded Teacher of the Year in 1975; and given a Certificate of Honor as an Outstanding Teacher in 1976 by the State of North Carolina;

WHEREAS, as a faithful member of United Institutional Baptist Church, Greensboro, North Carolina for over thirty years, Mr. Barrett participated as a bible study student;

WHEREAS, Mr. Barrett had several pastimes including playing the piano and the guitar, singing folk music, was an artist, an inventor, an event organizer, a mentor, a teacher, an engineer; and a mechanic;

WHEREAS, Mr. Barrett served as activist and treasurer for his community, Arlington Park, advocating for sidewalk and street improvements including crossing lights, handicap accesses and overall upgrades;

WHEREAS, Mr. Barrett actively participated in local, state, and national organizations including the Alliance of Retired Americans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the St. John's Lodge #12, the

National Education Association, and was a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); 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 Russell Wiggin Barrett 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 Russell Wiggin Barrett as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for his many contributions to this community.