

RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE FRED DEWEY MCKOY

WHEREAS, on November 27, 2020, this community lost one of its outstanding community leaders with the passing of the late Fred Dewey McKoy at the age of 99;

WHEREAS, Mr. McKoy, was born one of ten children on February 26, 1921, was a native of Columbus County, North Carolina; and graduated from Farmers Union High School in 1939;

WHEREAS, in order to escape the Great Depression, Mr. McKoy joined the all African American 77th Engineer Light Pontoon Company of the United States Army in 1941; trained in Iceland; and following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, was stationed in India with a mission to cut a path through uninhabited jungles, over the Himalayan mountains, to connect 10 major rivers and 155 streams;

WHEREAS, being on the frontline, he served as a Sergeant combat engineer where he built pontoon bridges along the 465-mile stretch of road from Ledo, India to Kuming, China; completed the project before the atomic bomb was dropped; and fought against Japanese troops in the China-Burma-India Campaign, and in various North African countries;

WHEREAS, upon his return to the states following World War II, Mr. McKoy continued his education in 1945 as a student at A&T College (now North Carolina A&T State University), majored in trade and industrial education for two years; entered the masonry and brick-laying industry; and taught these skills for two decades in Burlington high schools, as well as in prisons in Graham and Yanceyville;

WHEREAS, in the height of racism and discrimination in the Jim Crow segregated south, Mr. McKoy was integral in the fight for civil rights; and amid threats of violence from the Ku Klux Klan, allowed his children to integrate Gillespie Park Elementary School in 1957;

WHEREAS, Mr. McKoy supervised the construction of Shiloh Baptist Church; was a lifetime member who oversaw the church's masonry work; served as trustee, treasurer, and was a member of the finance committee and chaired the building committee;

WHEREAS, Mr. McKoy built the signs on the corner of Pisgah Church Road and Elm Street; constructed Hinshaw United Methodist Church, the doorway of the former BorenBrick Company, NC A&T State University's Corbett Center gym, corner flagpoles on Benbow and Sullivan Streets, A&T Football Stadium brick memorial, the patio area and circle wall at Grimsley High School, the entrance wall of Page High School; and in Burlington, helped to construct Walter Williams High School, Burlington City Park, and walls along Mebane Street;

WHEREAS, Mr. McKoy's longevity and lasting legacy was a testament to his military service, perseverance, determination, and contributions as a member of the Greatest Generation, a time attributed to those Americans who were born in the 1900s through the 1920s, lived through the Great Depression, and who fought in World War II;

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 Fred Dewey McKoy, the outstanding contributions he has made to the community and the country; 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 Fred Dewey McKoy as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for his many contributions to this community.