

## RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING MARGARET HOLMES “BABE” TURNER

- WHEREAS,** Margaret Holmes Turner was born in Sanford, North Carolina on January 4, 1918; and
- WHEREAS,** “Babe,” as she was affectionately known, began her education at Lee County Training School in Sanford, North Carolina until the age of 11 when her family moved to Durham, North Carolina where she continued her education in the Durham City Schools excelling in areas such as oratory, sewing and cooking just to name a few; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1929 the family joined St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church where Margaret became active in numerous church organizations such as the Buie Hudson Bible Class; founder of the Intermediate Girl Scouts Troop; was instrumental in working with the St. Mark Congregation in the 1950’s to raise funds to build the existing church; Senior Choir II and the Young Adult Choir, which she was often asked to serve as the choir’s soloist with her beautiful soprano voice; and
- WHEREAS,** Margaret began her career with the American Tobacco Company in 1945 working in several areas during her 38 years of employment where she was involved in many struggles to improve the working conditions facing blacks; being represented by Attorney Julius Chambers, Margaret had the distinction of being the only woman whose signature appeared on a class action lawsuit filed against the American Tobacco Company for their unfair treatment of black workers; and
- WHEREAS,** her dedication and contributions made to the cause for human and civil rights led her to work with Attorney Floyd McKissick, Sr., local and state civil rights leaders, North Carolina Central University students and other area colleges and schools in support of equal rights; and
- WHEREAS,** she instilled in her daughters Jean and Alma that same sense of passion for equality when they chose to join the student protest movement in the 1960’s she was right by their side walking the picket lines of merchants such as Woolworth’s, Kress, Walgreens and local movie theaters until “for whites only” signs were no more in the city; encouraging students to participate in the 1963 March on Washington and making sure black students could attend schools that were at one time, only for white students; and
- WHEREAS,** a recipient of many awards throughout her lifetime, she served proudly as a Commissioner on the Durham Human Relations Commission from 1979 – 1983; was a life member of the NAACP and a supporter of the Durham Civil Rights Movement Committee who honored her on several occasions referring to her as “A Drum Major for Justice;” and
- WHEREAS,** in 1987 Margaret was recognized by the Durham Branch NAACP as 3<sup>rd</sup> runner-up “Mother of the Year, an appropriate title for a woman who loved and delighted in her children Carolyn, Alma, Margaret, Frederick and Joseph; sons Robert and Richard departed this life years ago but their memory lived on in her heart.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DURHAM CITY COUNCIL:**

1. That this City Council pauses for a moment of silence in memory of Margaret Holmes Turner.
2. That this City Council pays tribute to her life and the unselfish contributions she made to the community.
3. That this resolution be spread upon the official minutes of this governing body.
4. That a certified copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Margaret Holmes “Babe” Turner.