

**RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING  
JOSEPH WILLIAM ANDERSON BECTON, JR.**

- WHEREAS, Joseph William Anderson Becton, Jr., a native of Durham, was born July 9, 1932, educated in the Durham Public School System; graduated from Hillside High School in 1950 – after which he served in the U. S. Marine Corps for four years; and**
- WHEREAS, after leaving the military, he received a BA Degree from North Carolina Central University in 1958, studied at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Municipal Administration in 1972 and continued his studies in Education on Federal Regulations related to Civil Rights Law; and**
- WHEREAS, for more than 41 years, Joe was married to Edna Raye Becton sharing many years of happiness with his high school classmate and the love of his life; and**
- WHEREAS, Mr. Becton worked as an Investigator with the New York City Social Services Department and in 1970 he served as the Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission for the City of Durham until his retirement in 1993 after obtaining legislation to grant citizens of Durham the right to go into state courts to gain a resolution to charges of discrimination when all other alternatives had failed; and**
- WHEREAS, during his tenure as Executive Director of Human Relations, he was instrumental in seeking equal opportunities within the areas of education, employment, housing and public accommodations after the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 1968 and 1972; and**
- WHEREAS, he touched the lives of many people through his professional and community affiliations to include: National Association of Human Rights Worker, North Carolina Chapter NAHRW [President 1973-1993], International Organization Human Rights, American Arbitration Association; WTVD Advisory Committee [Chairman, 1971-1977], WTVD Chairman Emeritus [1978], Class of 1950 Hillside High School President, Charter member of James E. Shepard Sertoma Club, Sertoma State Director [1991-1993], Sertoma International Director [1993-1995] and Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People; John Avery Boys & Girls Club—Board of Directors, Durham Bull Youth League; just to name a few; and**
- WHEREAS, Joe Becton will be remembered for forging one of the most remarkable alliances this town has ever seen--his work with civil rights advocates Ann Atwater and the late C.P. Ellis [former Durham Klan member] which is discussed in Osha Gray Davidson’s book “The Best of Enemies: Race and Redemption in the New South”.**

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

- 1. That this City Council pauses in a moment of silence in memory of Joseph William Anderson Becton, Jr.**
- 2. That this City Council pays homage for his service to mankind, leadership and legacy as a longtime activist for civil rights, justice and equality.**
- 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 his wife, Edna Raye Becton.**