

Resolution Honoring

Millie Dunn Veasey

WHEREAS, Millie Dunn Veasey (affectionately known as "Auntie Dear") was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, on Jan. 31, 1918, and grew up nine blocks away from the North Carolina State Capitol building, as one of six children; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Veasey attended Washington High School in Raleigh, and after graduating, she worked with the Wake County Cooperative Extension before joining the U.S. Army; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, Ms. Veasey enlisted in the U.S. Army with the "Six-Triple-Eight" Central Postal Directory Battalion – the only female and all-black battalion to serve overseas during World War II. She also volunteered for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. During the war, she was stationed in England and France. She served as a Company Clerk and Supply Sergeant, rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant before being honorably discharged in 1945.

WHEREAS, following her service in the U.S. Army, Ms. Veasey enrolled at St. Augustine's College where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in business education. She attended college on the G.I. Bill, and, while enrolled, she worked as the Executive Secretary to the President, James Boyer. She also earned a Master's Degree from North Carolina Central University in Durham; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Veasey joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, becoming the first African American female president of the Raleigh chapter. In that role, she worked locally and with national civil rights leaders, such as the Honorable Thurgood Marshall, the first black Supreme Court Justice. She also had an opportunity to sit next to the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. on Aug. 28, 1963 during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. In addition to the NAACP, she was involved in the National Federation of Democratic Women and the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Veasey retired from the St. Augustine's University in 1986 as the Director of Planning and Placement/Cooperative Education, she continued to be actively involved in helping others and making a difference in her community; and

WHEREAS, on Feb. 13, 2018, Ms. Veasey was honored by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Inc., along with eight other black veterans, during the ninth annual Avoice Heritage Celebration in Washington, D.C. where the theme was "Black Veterans on the Front Lines of History." This event honored the unwavering patriotic resilience, commitment, and sacrifices of African Americans to the values of freedom, democracy and justice from the battlefield to the halls of Congress; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Wake County Board of Commissioners, do hereby recognize and honor the legacy of Ms. Millie Dunn Veasey as an educator, a community and civic leader, and a proud World War II U.S. Army veteran; expresses its deepest sympathy for the loss of a great woman; and honors the contributions she has made to this county.

ADOPTED this the 16th day of April 2018.

Jessica N. Holmes, Chair Wake County Board of Commissioners