



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE EXCEPTIONAL LIFE OF LOCAL CIVIL RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CHAMPION MRS. NANNIE ELIZABETH BROWNING WILKINS

WHEREAS, Nannie Elizabeth Browning was born in Mebane, North Carolina on March 13, 1927;

WHEREAS, Nannie graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration and Commercial Education from North Carolina A&T University, which was an extraordinary feat for a woman of color in that era;

WHEREAS, in 1951 Nannie married Air Force officer Smiley Edward Wilkins and raised three children, Gwendolyn Pearl, Smiley Edward Jr, and Marcus Henry;

WHEREAS, when Smiley Sr. retired from the U.S. military in 1972, the family settled in Lompoc and engaged in a life of community service and volunteerism to improve the fabric of our community;

WHEREAS, in addition to volunteering for hospice care for 25 years, Nannie was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for 43 years where she served on the Executive Committee of the Santa Maria-Lompoc Branch until her heavenly transition;

WHEREAS, Nannie's husband Smiley Sr., was the longest serving President of the NAACP Santa Maria-Lompoc branch and together they tackled race-based discrimination, most notably taking action to end the Elks Lodge "blackball" policy of membership discrimination, which led to nationwide change to allow people of color to become Elks members;

WHEREAS, Nannie, Smiley, and the NAACP also worked to end discriminatory housing practices in Lompoc;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors recognize the exceptional life of Mrs. Nannie Elizabeth Browning Wilkins and her tremendous service to civil rights and social justice.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, on this 4th day of June 2019, by unanimous vote of all member present.



ATTEST:

Monique Poyatos
Clerk of the Board

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Supervisor - 1st District
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Supervisor - 2nd District
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Supervisor - 3rd District
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Supervisor - 4th District
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Supervisor - 5th District