



WHEREAS, Mrs. Zada Willene Lucinda Stowe Hairston was born on March 17, 1919 in Belmont, North Carolina, and is the only living sibling of five children born to the late Robert and Mary Grier Stowe; and,

WHEREAS, she grew up in the Belmont/South Point Township community where she was a very active member of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church and a graduate of Reid High School in Belmont, Class of 1936; and,

WHEREAS, in 1946 Mrs. Hairston married the late Elbert Percy Foster Hairston and moved to West Virginia. She is the mother of six daughters and one son, and is the grandmother of eighteen and great-grandmother of nine; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hairston cherished her memories of Belmont and often reminisced and shared stories about her youth and community life; of good times and bad and of her work in the fields, textile mills and as a domestic and a nanny for the Henry and Clayton Lineberger family of Belmont; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hairston returned to Belmont every summer to care for her parents and help with the family farm. Six of her children are now property owners in the Belmont area, with two having made their homes and raised their children in the South Point Township; and,

WHEREAS, on July 5, 1969, Mrs. Hairston was one of many attendees at the first Stowe Family Reunion celebration at the home of her brother, Grier and his wife Geneva Stowe. She is now the Matriarch of the Stowe Family Reunion, which celebrates its 50th year in July, 2019; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hairston achieved her life-long dream of getting a college education and received her Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education at the age of 56. She worked for the Mingo County Economic Opportunity Commission for 34 years and worked as a cook and teacher with a Head Start Program. She retired in 2001 at the age of 82; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hairston is dedicated to her community, civic engagements, church, Alpha Kappa Chapter of Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and Tug Valley Arts Council. She is a recipient of the 2016 Distinguished Mountaineer Award, 2010 and 2016 Believe, Achieve, Succeed Awards and was recognized in 2018 by the Woman's Auxiliary of the West Virginia Baptist State Convention.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners joins in the celebration of the 100th birthday of Belmont native

Mrs. Zada Stowe Hairston

as she celebrates this centenary birthday on March 16, 2019 in Williamson, West Virginia with family and friends and congratulates her on her long, healthy and exuberant life!

Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman

Chad Brown, Vice-Chairman

Allen R. Fraley

Jack B. Brown

Tom Keigher

Bob Hovis

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 26th Day of March 2019