

RESOLUTION NO. 13490-22

RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM

THE HONORABLE FLORA D. CRITTENDEN

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Newport News, Virginia, records with deep and profound sadness the death of Flora D. Crittenden; and

WHEREAS, born in New York, Flora D. Crittenden moved to Newport News as a teenager and graduated from Huntington High School. She earned her undergraduate degree from Virginia State University and a Master of Science from Indiana University, and later studied Advanced Guidance Theory at the University of Louisville; and

WHEREAS, Flora D. Crittenden was a devoted public servant, and served as a Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly for ten years starting in 1993 until she chose not to seek reelection in 2003. She represented her constituents honorably, serving as a strong advocate for education, public health, and public transportation; and

WHEREAS, prior to serving in the General Assembly, Flora D. Crittenden served one term on the Newport News City Council, from 1986 to 1990. In 1988, the City Council appointed her to the Peninsula Transportation District Commission, over which she served as chairperson or vice-chairperson for twelve years. She assisted with planning the merger of the Peninsula Transportation District Commission and the Tidewater Regional Transit Commission into the current Hampton Roads Transit organization. She also served on the Office of Human Affairs Board of Directors, the Newport News Transportation and Safety Commission, the Library Board of Trustees, and chaired the 1990 Census Committee; and

WHEREAS, for 32 years, Flora D. Crittenden was employed by Newport News Public Schools at George W. Carver High School and George W. Carver Intermediate School. She served as a classroom teacher, department head, guidance counselor, and guidance director. Always working to better the lives of youth through education, she went on to become the first black woman to chair the Board of Visitors at Christopher Newport University. Her tireless devotion to education touched the lives of thousands of students in Newport News; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her work as an educator and elected official, Flora D. Crittenden devoted her time, talent, and energy to establishing a better quality of life for the citizens of Newport News and the Commonwealth of Virginia. She was active in her church and the local NAACP, as well as many community organizations, including the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank, the Newsome House Foundation, the Newport News Alliance for Youth and the C. Waldo Scott Center for HOPE; and

WHEREAS, Flora D. Crittenden received numerous honors, awards and commendations as a result of her activities as an educator, elected official, and community activist; all a testament to her outstanding leadership, selfless dedication, and indefatigable efforts to improve her community. Her contributions to public education and the community resulted in the renaming of George W. Carver High School to Flora D. Crittenden Middle School in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Flora D. Crittenden was predeceased by her husband of 65 years, Raymond C. Crittenden, Jr., and is survived by a daughter, Thursa Crittenden, and two sons, Raymond Crittenden III and Alonzo Crittenden; as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many other loving relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, the product of her civic and professional activities touched the lives of many, and the death of Flora D. Crittenden creates a void in this community which this Council wishes to recognize.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Newport News, Virginia:

1. That it hereby recognizes all that Flora D. Crittenden has done to serve the City of Newport News and the Commonwealth of Virginia and honors her for her service to this community.
2. That it is ordered that the City Clerk shall record this resolution in the minutes of this body and that a copy be presented to the family of the late Flora D. Crittenden.
3. That this resolution shall be in effect on and after the date of its adoption, January 11, 2022.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS ON JANUARY 11, 2022

Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC
City Clerk

McKinley L. Price, DDS
Mayor

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk