

RESOLUTION NO. 13492-22

RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM

MARY SHERWOOD HOLT

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Newport News, Virginia, records with deep and profound sadness the death of Mary Sherwood Holt; and

WHEREAS, a native of Newport News, Mary Sherwood Holt was born in 1927 in what was then Warwick County. After high school, she furthered her education at Mount Holyoke College, majoring in German. In 1951, she married fellow Newport News native M. Quincy Holt and returned to Newport News; and

WHEREAS, Mary Sherwood Holt was a community leader who dedicated her time and talents to public service. In 1972, she was elected to the Newport News City Council and served three terms as a council member. She went on to serve as chairperson of the Newport News Centennial Celebration Commission and the Peninsula Planning District Commission, and was active in countless other government and community organizations, including, but not limited to: the Peninsula Economic Development Council, the Newport News Youth Services Commission, the Junior League of Hampton Roads, the Peninsula Human Services Coalition, the Peninsula Substance Abuse Council, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mary Sherwood Holt was devoted to conservation and the beautification of Newport News. She co-founded the Virginia Living Museum, serving as its president beginning in 1970 and remaining on its board until her death. An avid gardener and member of the Huntington Garden Club, she worked to share the joy she found in the beauty of nature and the environment and lobbied for green spaces in Newport News. In 2011 the Virginia Living Museum honored Mary and her late husband Quincy with the dedication of the Holt Native Plant Conservatory; and

WHEREAS, Mary Sherwood Holt was an advocate for the advancement of cultural arts in the community. She served on many local boards and councils that provided support to local art organizations, including Christopher Newport University's Ferguson Center for the Arts, Theatre Guild, and the Mary M. Torggler Fine Arts Center; the Peninsula Arts Center; the Virginia Living Museum; and the Mariners' Museum; and

WHEREAS, Mary Sherwood Holt was passionate about public transportation. She was a member of the commission that created the Peninsula Transportation District Commission, and twice served as the chair of the Peninsula Transportation District Commission. She became a leader in transportation, serving on Regional, State and National Boards and Commissions, including the Governor's Commission on Transportation for the 21st Century, the Virginia Board of Transportation Safety, and the governing board of the American Public Transit Association; and

WHEREAS, Mary Sherwood Holt was predeceased by her husband of almost 60 years, M. Quincy Holt. She is survived by three daughters, Elizabeth Sherwood Holt (Calvin T. Lucy, III), Maria G. Holt, and Frankie Holt (Michael Higgins); two sons, Saxon M. Holt (Mary McChesney Holt) and Michael G. Holt (Jill C. Holt); eight grandchildren, three nephews, a niece, and many

other friends and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, a visionary leader whose efforts affected the lives of many, and the death of Mary Sherwood Holt 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 Mary Sherwood Holt 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 Mary Sherwood Holt.

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