

RESOLUTION NO. 13655-23

RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM

BERNICE I. (BEA) BERRY

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Newport News, Virginia, records with deep and profound sadness the death of Bernice I. (Bea) Berry; and

WHEREAS, Bea Berry was a long-time resident of the City of Newport News, Virginia, having lived here since 1956 before moving to Staunton, Virginia in July of 2022; and

WHEREAS, Bea Berry was appointed as the City Clerk for the City of Newport News by City Council in 1978 and served in that position for over twenty-six years before retiring in 2004. Prior to that time, she worked for twenty-three years at the Noland Company as an Administrative Assistant to the President; and

WHEREAS, Bea Berry's service as City Clerk was characterized by diligent and tireless effort, and providing service with the highest degree of professionalism. During her service to the City, Mrs. Berry ensured the implementation and use of technological advances, steadily improving the timeliness and accuracy needed to properly maintain, process, and record all proceedings and other records of the City Council and the City; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Berry earned the designation of Master Municipal Clerk and was the 102nd Clerk in this country to achieve this accomplishment. She was an active member of both the Virginia Municipal Clerks Association (VMCA) and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Association (IIMC), and was voted by the IIMC to be an honorary member; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her career as City Clerk, Bea Berry participated in numerous professional and civic organizations to include: the Virginia Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (VAGARA), as a founding member, past present, and honorary member; President of the Travelers Protective Association; member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Honorary Member of Post 25, President of the 3rd District, and served as state chairman for several different standing committees; member of the Virginia State Association of Parliamentarians, Inc.(NAP); and President of the Old State Democratic Women's Club. She also served on the Board of Directors for Virginia Girls State for several years and as a Government Councilor at Girls State for twenty-eight years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Berry served in various local roles as Chairman of the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Chairman of the USS Newport News Liaison Committee, Secretary and President of the Newport News Democratic Party, President of the Newport News Women's Democrat Association, and as an Election Official for the Newmarket Precinct. Mrs. Berry was also instrumental in creating the Heritage High School Booster Club; and

WHEREAS, Bea Berry was preceded in death by her mother, Izora Twigg; father, Aubrey Hoover; brother, Donald Hoover and his wife, Betty; husband, William G. Berry; and daughter, Deborah M. Berry. She is survived by her daughter, Sandra Williams (Kenneth) of Lexington, VA; several grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, the product of her civic and professional activities touched the lives of many, and the death of Bea Berry 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 Bernice I. Berry 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 Bernice I. Berry.
3. That this resolution shall be in effect on and after the date of its adoption, September 12, 2023.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC
City Clerk

Phillip D. Jones
Mayor

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk