

Proclamation

Honoring

Mrs. Roberta Pittman Stephens

WHEREAS, Mrs. Roberta Stephens was born on February 19, 1915 in Marianna, Florida to Enoch and Rosa Lee Bell Pittman. She is the ninth child of eleven children and the youngest of five girls. In 1917, her family moved to Quincy, Florida where she has lived since that time; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Roberta Stephens attended public schools in Gadsden County and graduated from Stevens High School in Quincy in 1935. As a young girl before graduating from high school, Mrs. Stephens had already begun her teaching career. She often assisted her father who was a principal and teacher in several rural schools in Gadsden County. Mrs. Stephens said, "My father taught at more than one school in a school term by devising a schedule where he spent certain days at one school and other days at another and(or) mornings and afternoons at different schools." Her father, who was affectionately called "Professor" by the locals, spent many years teaching this way before he moved from Quincy to Jacksonville in the 1940's; and

WHEREAS, while teaching full-time, Mrs. Roberta Stephens attended Florida A&M College/University during the summers and received a B.S. degree in Mathematics in 1951 and a M.S. degree in Secondary Education in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Roberta Stephens is a retired public school teacher. She retired in 1973 from the Gadsden County school system after having taught 15 years as an elementary teacher and 20 years as a junior and senior high school Mathematics teacher; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Roberta Stephens was married for 48 years to the late Russell Stephens, who also graduated from FAMC/FAMU. The Stephens' only child, a son, Rawn Stephens lives in Houston, Texas with his wife, Loretta. The Stephens' only grandchild, Rawn's son, Jordan presently lives in Lancaster, California; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Roberta Stephens joined St. James A.M.E. Church in Quincy in 1931 where she is still a member. Until a few years ago when she began to have health problems, she was a very active leader in various capacities in her church. Most of her positions involved teaching and working with the youth of the church. From 1931-1990 (59 years) she taught the Beginners Class in Sunday School. She was also Secretary of the Sunday School, Co-Sponsor of the Youth Church, Director of the Young People Department (Y.P.D.), and President of the ACE League. These are just a few of the positions she held for many years in her church. She also held district-wide positions with the Florida A.M.E. Conferences. Over the years, she has received many honors, recognitions and expressions of appreciation for her service to her church, the community, and her sorority, Zeta Phi Beta, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, we wish to join in acknowledging the valued contributions that Mrs. Roberta Stephens continues to make throughout her life as she shares her knowledge with the younger generation, and teaches timeless lessons of courage, sacrifice and love; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners wish Mrs. Roberta Stephens a very happy 100th birthday and we urge all residents to honor this extraordinary woman and wish her health and happiness in all her days to come; and may she continue to share her love and joy with others.



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