



TOWN OF CARRBORO

NORTH CAROLINA

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PROCLAMATION

“A Proclamation of Honor and Appreciation to the Memory of R.D. Smith”

WHEREAS, Mr. Reginald D. “R.D.” Smith was a valued and exemplary citizen of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was a native of Goldsboro, NC and moved to Chapel Hill in the early 1940’s; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith graduated from the Hampton Institute in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was an educator in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School System, along with his wife, for over 35 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith taught agriculture, industrial arts, automotive repair, and drivers education and earned the nickname “The Master” because of his talents as a craftsman; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was promoted to assistant principal in 1970 and retired in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was instrumental in the integration of the school system; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith’s legacy inspired the establishment of a permanent scholarship at Chapel Hill High School; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the Smith’s longtime service as educators, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School System named R.D. and Euzelle P. Smith Middle School for them; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was also a World War II veteran, serving in the South Pacific with the U.S. Army from 1944-1946 as a Master Gunner in the 933rd Automatic Weapons Battalion; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith served on the Chapel Hill Town Council for over 21 years beginning in 1966 until 1987; and

WHEREAS, Former Chapel Hill Mayor Jonathan Howes is quoted as saying that Mr. Smith was the conscience to the Town Council and that his service paved the way for other African-Americans to take leadership positions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith and his wife were named Town Treasures by the Chapel Hill Historical Society;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2016 as “Reginald D. “R.D.” Smith Day” in the Town of Carrboro, and request that all citizens take time to reflect on and honor the life and work of Mr. Smith. On behalf of the Town of Carrboro, I would like to express our most sincere sympathy to Mr. Smith’s family for their loss of this great man.

This the 8th day of April, 2016

Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor

