

City of Charlottesville, Virginia

PROCLAMATION
90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
EUGENE WILLIAMS

Whereas Eugene Williams was born on November 6, 1927 in Charlottesville, Virginia. He is the oldest of two boys (younger brother, Albert) born to Septemia and Tom Williams.

Whereas on August 14, 1949 he married Lorraine Payne of Ivy, Virginia and they had two daughters, Karol Lorraine and Scheryl Eugenia.

Whereas Eugene Williams attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; served in the United States Armed Forces; worked as an Insurance Sales Executive for the all Black insurance company, Universal Life (formerly Richmond Beneficial); and founded Dogwood Housing Limited Partnership, AEW LLC and Five-Eleven Associates, business partnerships dedicated to providing affordable housing.

Whereas he is a member and former Sunday School Superintendent of Ebenezer Baptist Church; former President of the Charlottesville NAACP; former active member of the Blue Ridge Mountains Rotary Club and honored as a Paul Harris Fellow, for decades of practicing "Service over Self"; recipient of the Charlottesville Chamber of Commerce Bell Vanguard Award.

Whereas Eugene Williams was the recipient of a Joint Resolution (Virginia House of Delegates and Senate) number 743 commending him as a longtime community leader and advocate for civil rights.

Whereas Eugene Williams led a movement to file a lawsuit to integrate the public schools of Charlottesville, Virginia; the suit was filed and won; daughters, Karol and Scheryl, plaintiffs of the suit, were escorted to the new school by Charlottesville policemen.

Whereas he and wife, Lorraine, brother and sister-in-law, Albert and Emma, formed Dogwood Housing to revitalize neighborhoods and provide quality housing for low income residents of Charlottesville.

Whereas Eugene Williams has served as a symbolic conscience of Charlottesville for what is right and fair for all people and for bridging the diverse parts of the Charlottesville community.

Whereas Eugene Williams is being honored for challenging the past, testing the present and shaping the future of the great city of Charlottesville, Virginia.

Whereas Eugene Williams will celebrate his 90th Birthday on November 6, 2017.

Whereas the City of Charlottesville is grateful for his service to the community of Charlottesville and mankind.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the City of Charlottesville that November 6, 2017 be proclaimed as

EUGENE WILLIAMS DAY