

Proclamation

WHEREAS,

Judy A. Goodwin Forte’s career with the National Park Service began with the advice of a college professor to interview with the National Park Service in Washington, D.C.; she was later invited to apply for a park ranger position through the NPS Cooperative Program and began her career in June of 1978; and



WHEREAS,

Judy earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Tuskegee, Alabama in May 1980 and began working at Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area(NRA) as a permanent ranger soon thereafter; one year later, she was sent to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia for police training where she was the only Black female in her class of 24 students; and



WHEREAS,

Judy was soon promoted at Chattahoochee River NRA, serving in the capacity of district ranger for the Atlanta District and later, as district ranger in the Bull Sluice District, while she and her husband were expanding their family; over the course of time, she had supervised five permanent rangers and over 10 temporary park technicians in a 48-river mile park that contains 14 separate land units; and



WHEREAS,

Judy’s career continually grew into several capacities, including Superintendent of Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, and by 1998, offered the position of Chief of Education and later the position of Visitor Services, and Associate Regional Director of Operations, both positions located in the Southeast Regional Office, and she was the first African American woman to serve as Superintendent at Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park; and



WHEREAS,

during her 17 years at Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, Judy oversaw restoration of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, worked with the National Park Foundation to acquire Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birth and family homes for ownership by the National Park Service, and she worked with The Honorable U.S. Congressman John Lewis to write legislation for expansion of the park’s boundary that would change its designation from a national historic site to a national historical park;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Judy Forte for her pioneering career as a National Park Ranger and celebrates with her on her retirement, and hereby proclaims Saturday, February 24, 2024 as “**JUDY A. FORTE APPRECIATION DAY**” in Fulton County, Georgia.

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Commissioner

Clerk to the Commission

F U L T O N C O U N T Y