

Proclamation

WHEREAS,

Lottie Heywood Watkins was born in Atlanta, Georgia on June 4, 1918 to the late Eddie and Susie (Wilson) Heywood; she was raised alongside her siblings: Archie, Eddie, Margie, and Beulah; and

WHEREAS,

Lottie was educated in the Atlanta Public School System and graduated with honors from Booker T. Washington High School; she furthered her education at Reid's School of Business; and

WHEREAS,

Lottie married Eddie Rankin and to this union, her daughter Joyce Elaine was born, and to her marriage with J. Elmo Watkins, Judy Yvonne was born; and

WHEREAS,

Lottie founded *Lottie Watkins Enterprises* in 1960, and as CEO, she became the first African American woman real estate broker in the Atlanta area and operated for over 55 years; and

WHEREAS,

Lottie was twice elected to the Georgia General Assembly, District 34, and she was one of the first females on the Trustee Board at Providence Missionary Baptist Church, where she was a devoted member; she was civically engaged in many organizations such as the YMCA, YWCA, NAACP, American Cancer Society, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Atlanta Council of Human Relations, and in 2008, she inducted into the Atlanta Business League Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS,

Lottie is listed in Who's Who of American Women in Finance and Industry, Black World and International Who's Who in Community Service, and World Who's Who of Women; in 2011, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal presented her with the State of Georgia's annual Leadership, Dedication, And Courage in Civil Rights Award; and

WHEREAS,

in addition to her daughters, Joyce and Judy, Lottie leaves to cherish her memory her four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a host of extended family and friends;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Lottie Heywood Watkins for a life of integrity and dedication to her family and community, and does hereby proclaim Tuesday, September 26, 2023 as "**LOTTIE HEYWOOD WATKINS REMEMBRANCE DAY**" in Fulton County, Georgia.

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner

Attest:

Clerk to the Commission

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