

Proclamation



WHEREAS, Harry Belafonte’s legacy began when he was a young man in Harlem, New York City and fell in love with the theatre and began taking acting classes alongside Marlon Brando, Tony Curtis, Bea Arthur, and Sidney Poitier; he subsequently received the coveted Tony Award for his 1954 performance in John Murray Anderson’s Almanac; and



WHEREAS, Mr. Belafonte began his career in music as a club singer to pay for his acting classes, and his breakthrough album, Calypso, became the first LP in the world to sell over one million copies within a year, and he was also credited with introducing American audiences to calypso music, dubbing him the King of Calypso; and



WHEREAS, Mr. Belafonte met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the early 1950’s and they developed a deep and abiding friendship that he regarded as one of his most precious experiences and it also led to his work as an activist in the Civil Rights Movement; and



WHEREAS, Mr. Belafonte’s activism led him to spearhead the *We Are The World* record that debuted on January 28, 1985 in response to the cruel events that unfolded in Africa due to war, drought, and famine, and he was prominent in the contribution to the ending of Apartheid in South Africa and for the release of Nelson Mandela after more than 27 years of incarceration; and



WHEREAS, Mr. Belafonte was the first recipient of the Nelson Mandela Courage Award and was honored at the White House with the 1994 National Medal of Arts from President Clinton; he also received honorary degrees from City University of New York, Spelman College, Tufts University, and a Doctor of Humane Letters from Columbia University, among others;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Harry Belafonte for a life of activism, and for his tremendous contributions to the arts, and does hereby proclaim Tuesday, April 25, 2023 as “HARRY BELAFONTE REMEMBRANCE DAY” in Fulton County, Georgia.



Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Sponsoring Commissioner

Chairman

Vice Chair

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Attest:

Clerk to the Commission