

# Proclamation



**WHEREAS,** Henry “Hank” Aaron began his professional baseball career with the Atlanta Braves in 1954 and rewrote baseball’s record book during his 23-year Major League career as the greatest home run hitter of all time with a lifetime record of 755 home runs and held more Major League batting records than any other player in the game’s history when he retired at the end of the 1976 season; and



**WHEREAS,** Hank Aaron and his wife, Billye, established their *Chasing the Dream Foundation* in 1995 to help children between the ages of nine and 12 realize their dreams by providing grants that enable them to pursue advanced study in music, art, writing, dance and sports, and launched the Four-for-Four Scholarship program in 2010 that has endowed four-year scholarships of \$100,000 each for deserving students who have chosen to pursue their dreams by attending college; and



**WHEREAS,** Hank and Billye Aaron have been huge advocates for Morehouse School of Medicine with more than \$4.4 million to date in funding for scholarships to help students defray tuition costs and extending to a number of the institution’s annual events and projects; and



**WHEREAS,** The Aarons are both recipients of Morehouse School of Medicine’s Dr. Louis C. Brown Vanguard Award presented in 2017 and 2023, respectively, in recognition of extraordinary vision, exceptional leadership, and uncommon efforts that have made a significant contribution to the health and well-being of vulnerable individuals and underserved communities; and



**WHEREAS,** to honor Hank Aaron’s life and legacy, Morehouse School of Medicine pursued and successfully sought the renaming of the former Lee Street Bridge in Southwest Atlanta to the Hank Aaron Bridge, which serves as the gateway to the Atlanta University Center, and commissioned visual artist Muhammad Yungai to create a mural honoring Hank Aaron that will be displayed on the institution’s campus; and



**WHEREAS,** Morehouse School of Medicine has a new public Hank Aaron Plaza featuring a statue of the baseball legend created by renowned artist Abiola Akintola, located at the corner of Lee St. and Westview Dr. outside of the Billye Suber Aaron Pavilion;



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the contributions of Hank and Billye Aaron, and celebrates the unveiling of the bridge renamed in his honor and the debut of the new Hank Aaron Plaza on Morehouse School of Medicine’s campus, and does hereby proclaim Thursday, May 18, 2023 as “**CHASING THE DREAM HANK AARON BRIDGE AND PLAZA APPRECIATION DAY**” in Fulton County, Georgia.

**Fulton County Board of Commissioners**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Commissioner**

Attest:

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Clerk to the Commission

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