



Resolution Honoring the Life and Contributions of Ethel C. Montgomery

WHEREAS, Ethel C. Montgomery, affectionately known as "Connie," was a distinguished alumna of Morristown High School, Class of 1949, and furthered her education at the College of St. Elizabeth, majoring in Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, she dedicated 13 years of service to the Morristown Neighborhood House, positively impacting the lives of many community members; and

WHEREAS, in 1966, Ethel Montgomery made history as the first African American elected to the Morristown School District Board of Education, serving as Vice President in 1968 and as President in 1972; and

WHEREAS, she played a pivotal role during the merger of the Morristown and Morris Township schools, serving as Vice President of the interim Morris School District Board, demonstrating unwavering commitment to educational excellence and unity; and

WHEREAS, her dedication to public service extended to her appointment by Governor Byrne to the New Jersey State Board of Education from 1975 to 1981, and her election as Councilwoman At-Large for Morristown from 1982 to 1990, where she also held the positions of President and Vice-President; and

WHEREAS, Ethel Montgomery was a trailblazer in fostering inclusivity, evidenced by organizing Morris County's first integrated Girl Scout Troop in 1952 and co-founding Carettes in 1959, an organization providing scholarships and social activities for African American high school juniors; and

WHEREAS, her lifelong commitment to the youth of Morristown was further exemplified by establishing the Lafayette 4-H Club in 1997, offering positive outlets and mentorship to children aged 6 to 14; and

WHEREAS, Ethel Montgomery's extensive community involvement included active participation in organizations such as the Morris County Urban League, Morris County Fair Housing Council, NAACP, League of Women Voters, and numerous others, reflecting her dedication to civil rights, fair housing, and community betterment; and

WHEREAS, her exemplary service and contributions have left an indelible mark on the Morris School District and the broader Morristown community, inspiring generations through her leadership, advocacy, and unwavering commitment to equality and education; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Morris School District Board of Education hereby honors the memory of Ethel C. Montgomery, expressing profound gratitude for her outstanding contributions to our schools and community, and extends heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and all who were touched by her remarkable life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be recorded in the official minutes of the Morris School District Board of Education and that a copy be forwarded to the family of Ethel C. Montgomery as an expression of the Board's deepest sympathies and highest esteem.