

RESOLUTION NO. 13-879

WHEREAS, the members of the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised of the untimely passing of Mr. Thomas E. Hereford on November 2, 2013. A celebration of his home-going will be held on November 8th, 2013, at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville. Mr. Hereford was a respected citizen of our City; and,

WHEREAS, his soul entered eternity completing a life of achievement. Thomas, affectionately known as "Uncle Tom," was the son of the late Reverend Sonnie Hereford, II, and Janie Burwell Hereford whose parental teaching permeated his being. His marriages of 37 years to the Lytha Joiner and 29 years to Nancy Denton Laws and the off-springs of those marriages taught him the importance of family. In addition to lessons in family life, Uncle Tom received academic, professional, Christian, and civic training; and,

WHEREAS, Thomas Hereford was a faithful member of Center Grove United Methodist Church where he was a longtime chairman of the Board of Trustees. That position required him to coordinate the financing of the construction of the church's present facility. He was vice president of the United Methodist Men, advisor to Boy Scouts and engaged in other ministries as his services were needed. His Christian training was indeed effective. He loved his church and he loved others as Christ commanded; and,

WHEREAS, on the streets of Huntsville, Birmingham, and Montgomery, Alabama, he learned the art of being a Civil Rights activist. During the 1960s, he assisted his brother, Dr. Sonnie Hereford, in the Civil Rights Movement. He attended Federal Courts, participated in protest marches, carried picket signs, and transported citizens during the Montgomery Bus Boycott; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Hereford was a charter member of the William Hooper Council Elks Lodge #977. He was initiated into the Lodge in 1958 and was consistently active until death. Elected to the Elks Board of Trustees in 1962, he served for 51 years. He was Chairman of the Board from 1974 until 2008. Among his favorite activities in the organization were the Grocery Grab Fundraiser and The Elks Oratorical Contest. He coordinated the "grocery grab" and directed the local Education Department for 36 years. As director, he produced one national oratorical winner and two district winners. For ten years he was also assistant State Director of Education; and,

WHEREAS, Thomas was preceded in death by his daughter, Beverly, and his dear friend Dr. Rather Brown. Those who will cherish the memories of his earthly training are his wife, Nancy Hereford; his children, Thomas Willington Hereford of Huntsville; Darrius (Robin) Hereford of Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Robert (Camilla) Laws of Madison, Alabama; and Linda Frink of Harvest, Alabama; his grandchildren, Frederick Frink, Juan Laws, Suvache Laws and Tierney Franklin; his

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brother, Dr. Sonnie W. (Martha) Hereford, III; a devoted cousin and friend Charles Hall; nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, express special thanks and salute the awesome legacy and memories of Thomas E. Hereford, for his dedicated service and untiring effort to make Huntsville a better community. He will be missed by his loving family, friends, colleagues and the community at large. Huntsville, Alabama, is honored that Mr. Thomas E. Hereford, lived and served in our City.

ADOPTED on this the 7th day of November, 2013.

President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED on this the 7th day of November, 2013.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama