

RESOLUTION NO. 15-25

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised of the passing of Kenneth Joseph Dupree who served as a Huntsville police officer for some 24 years and retired in 1998 as an investigator in the Criminal Investigation Division; and,

WHEREAS, Ken was a native son, born, raised and lived his entire life in Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama. He served his country in the United States Army from May 1971 until April 1974, including a tour of duty in Germany. For a number of years, he worked in the Narcotics Unit as an undercover agent, and was responsible for many significant cases and seizures of illicit drugs. After transferring to the Investigation Division, Ken served as a Larceny Detective, and again distinguished himself through his work ethic and dedication to duty; and,

WHEREAS, in 1978, Ken married Marcia Renfro, and they celebrated their 36th Anniversary on September 29, 2014. Of all the 'seizures' Ken made during his career, marrying Marcia was no doubt the most dynamic and enduring; and

WHEREAS, in later years, Ken became quite known in the arena of songwriting. He served as master of ceremonies for the Songwriter's Open Mic at the Coffee Tree Books and Brew for many years, where he was loved and appreciated by all who came through the door. He never met a stranger and was truly gracious and complimentary to all, regardless of their ability or talent level. His humor was appreciated, and most everyone was on the receiving end of one of his 'personalized' jokes; and,

WHEREAS, Ken himself was an accomplished songwriter, although he had some problem with the 'writing' part. He would often share a new song and someone would say, "Ken, give me those words and I will work up the music for you," only to find that the song was all in his head, not written anywhere. Another facet of songwriting is 'co-writing,' and in this area Ken was certainly different. He did some of his best work in the shower, so if you were going to write with Ken you had to get over your modesty or buy a bathing suit, one or the other; and,

WHEREAS, most of all, Ken was a genuine, honest-to-goodness friend to many, stranger to none. He was the kind of friend who would literally give you his shirt, and if the size was wrong, he would go buy one. He was always upbeat, kind, unselfish and generous to a fault. He always had an amusing story or comment and was never angry with anyone; and

WHEREAS, when Ken was promoted to glory on December 2, 2014, it was a loss felt by all who knew him. He made everyone a little better for having been acquainted with him. If you look up the term 'friend' in the dictionary, you will find Ken's picture there.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that we wish to celebrate the life of Kenneth Dupree, a wonderful friend and co-worker. We recognize him as the example of truly living a dedicated life to helping those in need, regardless of their circumstances. He was deeply loved and will be profoundly missed.

ADOPTED this the 22nd day of January, 2015.

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

APPROVED this the 22nd day of January, 2015.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama