

## RESOLUTION No. 15-127

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Mrs. Laura B. Ford Clift will be honored for her active volunteerism in the local community during the "2015 Honoring Our Elders Celebration" sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation, held at the Jackson Center on March 14, 2015; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Rosetta James Foundation was founded in December 2006. It is a 509 (a) (2) public charity and educational organization founded for the purposes of providing scholarships to deserving students and recognizing the contributions of the elderly in the community, while promoting volunteerism and community outreach; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Laura B. Ford Clift is the eldest of five children born to the union of Charlie Ed Ford and Ida B. Braggs. Born in Huntsville, Alabama, "Laura B," as she is so affectionately known by her family, was educated at West Huntsville Junior High School during her formative years in grades one through eight. Afterwards, she attended Councill Training High School, Normal, Alabama, and graduated from William Hooper Councill High School in Huntsville. It was at William Hooper Councill High School that she met Gene Arnold Clift. Both graduated the same year and later enrolled at Alabama A&M College (now AAMU), and then married on July 16, 1958. Mrs. Clift received the Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a minor in Mathematics in spring 1964. She later pursued and completed requirements for the Master of Science degree in Guidance and Counseling and Psychology, as well as K-12 certification in Administration from the AAMU; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Clift began her profession as a fourth-grade teacher at Councill Training School (1964-66). She later transferred to a different position in the Madison County School System at Farmer's Capital Junior High in Meridianville, Alabama, where she taught Science and Math for eleven years. In 1975, Mrs. Clift transitioned to the Huntsville City School System and accepted her first assignment as Guidance Counselor at Davis Hills Middle School. There she became the first African-American female counselor at this location following desegregation. After fifteen years, she became the first African-American guidance counselor at Huntsville High School. Following four years there, she moved to the Annie C. Merts Center, the Huntsville City Schools Administrative Office, as the system's Drug Education Coordinator. Embracing her love for educating youth, she accepted a position as first female Assistant Principal at Ed White Middle School. She remained in that position until her retirement in 2004; and,

**WHEREAS**, never being one to sit idly by, "retirement" did not "sit" well with her. After a year of leaving her career in academia, Mrs. Clift began to devote her afternoons to tutoring students at the Bo Matthews Center for Excellence in Huntsville, Alabama. After four years of service there, she spent five years tutoring middle school students at the Northwest Community Learning Center; and,

**WHEREAS**, more than fifty years ago, she began her pilgrimage with the Lakeside United Methodist Church. Her journey began as a sanctuary member, a soprano soloist who continues to lend her voice to the church's sanctuary choir. Since that time and throughout the seasons of her life, she has held numerous position at her church, such as Administrative Board Secretary, United Methodist

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Women secretary, UMW Treasurer, Chairperson of a women's circle, Harvest Chairperson, Harvest Tea Chairperson, Evangelism/Revival Chair, Lay Leader, Vacation Bible School Director, Vacation Bible School Teacher, Methodist Youth Fellowship Director, Special Days Organizer, Special Events Organizer (e.g., Women's Day, Heritage Sundays, Church Anniversaries), member of the district team of United Methodist Women, and Church lay leader (10 years). Currently, she is a Church Historian (ten years) and certified lay servant/lay speaker of the United Methodist Church, President of the local Mary Binford Jordan group of United Methodist Women Organization at Lakeside, member of the Finance Committee and Chair of the Council on Ministries; and,

**WHEREAS**, her examples of diligent service can be found among her previous affiliations with Girls, Incorporated of Huntsville (board member); Huntsville-Madison County AIDS Board of the Madison County Health Department; as Parent Education Instructor at Drake Towers for Residents of Council Courts; as Parent Education Coordinator at Oscar Mason Center; as a member of the Drug Education Task Force of the Coalition on At-Risk Minority Males; and several other interagency commissions. She also remains active with the Madison County Retired Education Association; and,

**WHEREAS**, she has also taken on the task of being the benevolence liaison for her neighborhood Slaughter's Subdivision, and the primary collection agent for the March of Dimes, American Heart Association, etc. Not limited to her neighborhood, Mrs. Clift expands her public service as a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, where she has held almost every elected office and chair of most standing and ad hoc committees. Paramount is her tenure as President of the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter from 2001-03. A perfect role model, she is honored to be the first of three generation of Delta women; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Clift is immensely committed to her family. Her daughter Sheila Carol is also an Alabama A&M University alumna, and is married to Dale William Baxter. They have made her the very proud grandmother of two precious gems, Meaghan Dominique and Raven Shedale Baxter.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge and congratulate Mrs. Laura B. Ford Clift and the Rosetta James Foundation, and extend best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

**ADOPTED** this the 12th day of March, 2015.

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

**APPROVED** this the 12th day of March, 2015.

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Mayor of the City of  
Huntsville, Alabama