

**HONORING MATTHEW JEFFERSON
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY.**

FEBRUARY 16, 2024

WHEREAS, MATTHEW JEFFERSON WAS BORN ON FEBRUARY 16, 1924 IN DALE, SOUTH CAROLINA TO PARENTS THOMAS AND LYDIA JEFFERSON, AND TURNED 100 YEARS OLD ON FEBRUARY 16, 2024; AND

WHEREAS, MATTHEW WAS ONE OF THE FIRST BLACK STUDENTS TO COMPLETE STUDIES AT BOSTON TRADE SCHOOL IN 1944, AND ENLISTED IN THE NAVY TO CONTINUE HIS STUDIES AT THE NAVAL TRAINING SCHOOL AT HAMPTON INSTITUTE AND GREAT LAKES ILLINOIS NAVAL TRAINING CENTER, CONTINUING ON AS AN ELECTRICIAN AT THE U.S. SUB BASE AT PEARL HARBOR. HE LATER COMPLETED STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ELECTRONIC SCHOOL AND GRADUATED FROM NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY WITH A DEGREE IN BUSINESS IN 1970.

WHEREAS, MATTHEW MARRIED HIS SWEETHEART LILLIE BELLE PERRY AT MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH IN NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ON AUGUST 10, 1946 AND WENT ON TO RAISE THEIR BELOVED CHILDREN RICHARD, PAULETTE, AND LAURIE.

WHEREAS, MATTHEW LED A LIFE ROOTED IN WIDE-REACHING CIVIC INVOLVEMENT, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND RACIAL JUSTICE. HE WAS A STRONG PROPONENT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, DIVERSE REPRESENTATION, AND EDUCATION FOR ALL NO MATTER THE COLOR OF ONE'S SKIN. HE SERVED AS A TRUSTEE OF A HOST OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING NEWTON WELLESLEY HOSPITAL, MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, ANDOVER NEWTON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, MASS HOUSING FINANCE COMMISSION, NEWTON HOUSING AUTHORITY, AND SERVED SEVERAL TERMS AS PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH MIDDLESEX BRANCH OF THE NAACP.

WHEREAS, MATTHEW SERVED AS WARD 3 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEEMAN AND WAS APPOINTED IN 1969 TO FILL A VACANCY REPRESENTING WARD 3 ON THE NEWTON BOARD OF ALDERMAN, BECOMING THE FIRST BLACK ALDERMAN IN THE HISTORY OF THE CITY. IN 1970, HE WAS ELECTED AS ALDERMAN AT LARGE FROM WARD 3, SERVING FOR 20 YEARS, INCLUDING AS CHAIR OF THE BOARD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

RESOLVED, THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HEREBY JOIN WITH HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN PAYING HONOR AND TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW JEFFERSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY, AND EXTEND TO HIM THEIR BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THESE RESOLUTIONS BE FORWARDED BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MATTHEW JEFFERSON.

SPONSOR: REPRESENTATIVE KAY KHAN