

RESOLUTION 23 -

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are saddened by the passing of lifelong educator and Community leader, Dr. Mary Jane Caylor and wish to honor her remarkable achievements and legacy; and

WHEREAS, Huntsville native, Mary Jane was a proud graduate of Huntsville High School. She went on to earn her bachelor and master's in education then a doctorate in educational administration and planning from the University of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Caylor taught at the elementary school level and then as an adjunct professor with the University of Alabama in Huntsville and Athens State College. In 1982, Dr. Caylor became the first female Superintendent of Huntsville City Schools, a position that she held until 1991. She was appropriately awarded Superintendent of the year in 1990. In 1994, she was elected as a member of the State Board of Education, serving four terms. She retired as Dean of Workforce Development at JF Drake State Community College in 2016; and

WHEREAS, she began her career with the City of Huntsville as a Juvenile Detective and as a Madison County Juvenile Probation Officer, having the distinguished honor of being the second female detective in the City of Huntsville. Her skill and passion for helping young people ignited an enthusiasm and sense of purpose for the youth she encountered, inspiring fellow parents and educators alike; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Caylor was astute and resourceful in every role she held. She was constantly in search of opportunities to serve her community and a remarkable asset in every capacity. As the Pentagon went through its Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process in the early 2000s, she served on the recruitment team which successfully helped Redstone Arsenal grow while many other bases were cut. Surviving the BRAC process was an incredible accomplishment, one that proved to be an integral part of the growth that Huntsville experienced and is still prospering from to this day; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jane served as the executive director of Bicentennial Commission and of Big Spring Partners, Inc., a non-profit dedicated to the revitalization of downtown Huntsville. She proved to be instrumental in establishing the Bicentennial Children's Fountain and Park, the Huntsville Rotary Plaza and Fountain, the Tom Thrasher Fountain in Big Spring Park, and the Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial to preserve the history of our military and their devotion to our country; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Caylor was graduate of Leadership Huntsville, and fittingly an alumna of the first class of Leadership Alabama as well as a charter member of its Board of Directors. With integrity she offered guidance and encouragement to everyone she encountered, inspiring greatness in her family, pupils and peers.

WHEREAS, Mary Jane was endlessly dedicated to her family, making them a priority in every decision she made. She leaves behind her loving daughter and grandchildren as well as a host of devoted friends. Her distinguished career is remarkable and undoubtedly she made a

significant impact within the community, but the most valuable contribution she bestowed was the sincere love she shared with her family and friends.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, recognize the extraordinary legacy and memories of Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, honoring her lifelong service and untiring efforts to making Huntsville a better community.

ADOPTED this the 7th day of December, 2023.

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

APPROVED this the 7th day of December, 2023.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama