

## **RESOLUTION 23 -**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are saddened by the passing of Community leader, James Elbert Peters and wish to honor his legacy; and

**WHEREAS**, Elbert was born in Geneva Alabama, raised on a family farm just miles away from the Florida line. He graduated from Samson High School where he was the class Salutatorian. It was there he met his late wife, Melba. They wed in 1954, married for over 55 years, more than 50 of those years were spent in Huntsville; and

**WHEREAS**, after high school, he served four years in the Air Force. He traveled extensively in training and participated in electronics surveillance activities as part of intelligence gathering by the Air Force Security Service Command. He was honorably discharged in 1954 and immediately enrolled in Auburn University, where his wife worked while he earned a degree in Electric Engineering.

**WHEREAS**, as an electrical engineer, He quickly found his way to Huntsville. He began working for Brown Engineering and then began his employment with Boeing. For an 11-year period he worked at TVA's nuclear plants then returned to Boeing from which he retired in 1995; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 1987 Elbert was appointed by Governor Guy Hunt to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council, a group tasked with the creating the State Health Plan. He served as chairman of the Council for 5 years. In 1995 Governor James asked him to serve as Executive Director of State Health Planning and Development agency where he served until 1998 when he finally retired; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Peters was a respected Republican activist in the community, a member of the Alabama Republican Executive Committee and the Madison County Republican Executive Committee for many years. He and his late wife attended their first Republican National Convention in 1964 and many thereafter. He was the Presidential Elector from the 5th Congressional District in 1988 and at least four other times. For many years he was an associate member of the Republican Women of Huntsville and an associate member of two other Republican Women's clubs in Madison County; and

**WHEREAS**, He also served in all elected Republican Party positions, which included Madison County Republican Chairman, 5th Congressional District Chairman, North Alabama Vice-Chairman, Senior Vice-Chairman, and State Republican Chairman. He was State Chairman in 1994 when, for the first time, Alabama elected more than one person to statewide office. That year there were seven. A few days after the election, Senator Richard Shelby switched to the Republican Party; and

**WHEREAS**, He served on the 21-member Republican Party Steering Committee for many years. His last meeting with this Committee was in February 2023, just before his last term

ended as 5th Congressional District Chairman. He was almost 90 years old at the time. He had served many years as the District Chairman; and

**WHEREAS**, Elbert was best known for his work with the Madison County Republican Men’s Club, he was instrumental in starting the club in 1985 and was club president for many years, he only retired when poor health forced him to do so. He served the community on several other boards and in many other capacities. While he received countless honors and recognition for his ongoing service he maintained a spirit of humility and gratitude; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Peters was a man of strong faith, he was a lifelong Christian, and a proud member of the Chase Park Church of Christ in Huntsville for more than 50 years. He was known for his enduring love of God, his family and his country.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, recognize the extraordinary legacy of Mr. Elbert Peters, honoring his lifelong service and untiring efforts to making Huntsville a better community.

**ADOPTED** this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

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

**APPROVED** this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

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Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama