

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE HISTORY AND LEGACY
OF THE SKYLAND SENIOR CITIZENS**

WHEREAS, the year 1950 marked the beginning of an organized recreation program in the Skyland Community and under the auspice of L.B. Hathaway, Recreation Director, Mrs. Minnie D. Harris was assigned to undertake the task of establishing the Skyland Senior Citizens Program; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, at the home of the late Mrs. Nannie Wyncoff, with eight members, the club originally known as “The Golden Girls Club” was formed. The Club grew and progressed to become too large for home meetings, so they began meeting at Skyland Recreation Center, at which time it was renamed “Skyland Senior Citizens” which has had over 150 members. Mrs. Harris retired in 1971 at which time Mr. Rupert W. Bell was transferred to the Skyland Community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bell, an employee of the Winston-Salem Recreation Department, retired in 1976 and as a tribute to his devoted service, the Skyland Senior Citizens formed the Rupert Bell Choir in 1978 under the leadership of President Janie A. Wilson, assisted by Mrs. Mamie White and Mr. Charles Crosby. In 1979, the Winston-Salem Recreation Department renamed East Winston Park, Rupert Bell Park in honor of Mr. Bell. The Skyland Senior Citizens have been actively involved in the community visiting nursing homes, organizing blood pressure programs, and participating in classes such as crocheting, ceramics and sitercise. Additionally, there were trips to Atlantic City, NJ; Lancaster, PA; and the American Theater; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, the doors opened on the new Rupert Bell Neighbor Recreation Center, which stands as a living monument to the predecessors who, with great courage, wisdom, patience, thoroughness, conscientiousness, and faith in God, recognized the need for a recreation center in the Skyland and East Winston Community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Beverly Lyons, supervisor of the Rupert Bell Recreation Center became the Advisor in October 2015. Mrs. Ligons has been a blessing to the club and will retire September 2019. Currently there are 23 active members who continue to serve the East Winston Community. The Skyland Senior Citizens will host the 2020 N.C.A.S.C.C.S State Conference in Winston-Salem.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem, hereby celebrate and honor the history and legacy of the Skyland Senior Citizens Club and thank them for enhancing the lives of East Winston and service to their Community.