

**RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF AURELIA GRAY ELLER**

WHEREAS, Mrs. Aurelia Gray Eller was a lifelong resident of Winston-Salem, where she attended Summit School and Salem Academy, and graduated cum laude from Duke University in 1954; and

WHEREAS, Aurelia met and married her husband, Attorney John DeWalden Eller, Jr., that same year. They had three children, John III, Aurelia and Mary Louise.; and

WHEREAS, she held leadership positions in numerous organizations, including president of the Winston-Salem Arts Council, the Winston-Salem Symphony and the Winston-Salem Junior League, through which she played a primary role in integrating the Winston-Salem Junior League; and

WHEREAS, Aurelia served on the boards of Salem Academy and College, Old Salem, Inc., Senior Services, the Rotary Club of Winston-Salem and Eckerd Youth Alternatives Wilderness Camps. She was a member of the Board of Visitors of Wake Forest University and the Board of Trustees of Winston-Salem State University (from whom she received a Doctor of Humane Letters in 1989). She was co-chair of the Forsyth County Bicentennial Commission and she was the first female chair of the United Way Campaign in 1982; and

WHEREAS, Aurelia authored three books, including one on which she collaborated, "Old Salem Brought to Life", a book of paintings by her mother, Pauline Bahnson Gray, depicting art work that helped to catalyze the renovation and preservation of what is now Old Salem; and

WHEREAS, she was recognized with a number of prominent service awards, including the YWCA Leadership Award and the Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Service Award. In 1982, she was named one of the Winston-Salem Journal's Twenty Most Influential People of Winston-Salem. Recently, she was the 2012 winner of the Take the Lead Campaign for the Bethesda Center for the Homeless; and

WHEREAS, Aurelia lived a life devoted to her family, but also found joy in volunteerism, and creating an enduring legacy of making life better for the people of Winston-Salem, and beyond. She had a major impact on her community, especially in the arts, her true love; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has requested the outside lights at Historic City Hall and the Twin Arches Bridge Lights at US 52 and Research Park Boulevard reflect blue lights, Aurelia's favorite color, beginning September 21 through September 23.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem, do hereby recognize and honor the memory of Mrs. Aurelia Gray Eller for her lifetime of dedication and philanthropy to Winston-Salem, particularly its arts community.