

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION NO. RS2025-1132

A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Charles Edward Kimbrough.

WHEREAS, Nashville civil rights activist, veteran, veterinarian, and minister Dr. Charles Edward Kimbrough passed away at the age of 97 ~~98~~ on March 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kimbrough was born in 1927 ~~1928~~ and raised in Giles County, Tennessee during the height of the Jim Crow era; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kimbrough enlisted in the U.S. Army and served six years, a portion of which was during the Korean War, earning a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, Combat Medal Badge, and a Korean Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, after receiving an honorable discharge, Dr. Kimbrough enrolled at what is now Tennessee State University and earned a degree in biology with honors; and

WHEREAS, he later earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree ~~doctorate in veterinary medicine~~ at what is now Tuskegee University; becoming one of the first African-American veterinarians licensed in the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kimbrough became ~~become~~ politically active during his studies, leading him to become more aware of discriminatory policies and to build a strong resolve towards eliminating racial injustice; and

WHEREAS, he organized NAACP branches in Illinois and Tennessee, participated in the second Selma ~~m~~March and the March on Washington, and had a role in local protests including the Tennessee State University sit-ins in 1990 organized and led by Student Government President Jeff Carr; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kimbrough served as president of the Nashville ~~b~~Branch of the NAACP from 1973 to 1980, as he advocated for the African-American community and broadened the reach of the local branch ~~chapter~~; and

WHEREAS, he also served as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Sparta, Illinois and Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Watertown, Tennessee and later as an associate minister at Spruce Street Baptist Church in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kimbrough is survived by his wife of 33 years, Dr. Blondell Strong Kimbrough, and his two children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council honors the life of Dr. Charles Edward Kimbrough and his decades of service to Nashville and Davidson County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan County Council hereby goes on record as recognizing the life of Dr. Charles Edward Kimbrough and the legacy he has left in Nashville and Davidson County.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

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