

Proclamation Honoring the Legacies of Barbara Pinkett Hicks and Bernard Pinkett

Whereas, Barbara Pinkett Hicks and Bernard Pinkett were born, raised, nurtured, and encouraged in the City of New Castle, Delaware, by their parents, Mr. Joseph and Leona Pinkett, and molded by the love and support of the Buttonwood United Methodist Church, the Buttonwood Colored School, the great Mr. Sylvester Wright, and a host of extended family and lifelong friends; and

Whereas, these siblings shared a deep love and kindred spirit for scholarship, service, community, and humanity—values they exemplified throughout their lives as trailblazers in their respective professional fields and through their tireless volunteerism. They were true aficionados of people, sports, jazz, travel, gardening and everything in between; and

Whereas, Barbara Pinkett Hicks, affectionately known as “Second Mom,” graduated from Howard High School where she served as Class President, and later matriculated to Freedman’s Nursing School. A matriarch in Wilmington’s Southbridge community, she led the Neighborhood House, championed a Beautification Project, initiated College and Career Readiness programs, supported 4H youth development, served on numerous boards, and was honored with a park bearing her name; and

Whereas, Bernard Pinkett, affectionately known as “Bernie,” graduated from Howard High School where he also served as Class President, then matriculated to Central State University and later The University of Pennsylvania. He served his country and God with distinction as an Army Ranger and went on to make history as Delaware’s first Black physical therapist, operating a private practice that uplifted and healed thousands over the course of a distinguished career that lasted decades; and

Whereas, Barbara Pinkett Hicks and Bernard Pinkett brought tremendous pride to the City of New Castle and the State of Delaware through lives marked by honor, excellence, distinction, and compassion; and

Whereas, they each lived long, substantive lives—fighting the good fight, finishing their race, keeping the faith, and leaving behind enduring legacies that will continue to inspire; and

Whereas, even in death, their unbreakable bond as siblings endures forever and ever. Having now received their heavenly crowns and robes, they shall tell the story of how they made it over into glory.

Now, Therefore, be it proclaimed that Barbara Pinkett Hicks and Bernard Pinkett are hereby recognized and celebrated for being ordinary people who achieved extraordinary feats—often at great personal sacrifice—and whose lives enriched the fabric of society and it started right here. There is no place like home. They were truly New Castle’s finest.