

The Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, California

In the matter of recognizing May 10, 2023, as the 102nd Birthday of Richmond resident, Mary Smith.

Resolution No. 2023/131

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2023, the community and family of Mary Smith, the beloved matriarch and long-time resident of Richmond, California, in Contra Costa County, will be celebrating her 102nd birthday; and

WHEREAS, affectionately known as "Aunt Lil Sister" to her extended family, Mary was born in Minden, Louisiana in 1921 to Dallas ("Pappa") and Mellie ("Mama Mellie") Scott. Mary spent her early years picking cotton, despite her childhood bouts with polio that impaired her ambulation. Her brother, Clifton Scott, would physically carry her to the cotton fields to work. Family lore and oral history passed down through the years is that Mary was so hungry one day, that the alluring smell of her mother's famous fried chicken caused her to stand up and miraculously start walking on her own. Her newfound confidence helped shape her philosophy that nothing could stop her from achieving anything she set out to do; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, Mary left Louisiana and settled in the Bay Area. She had a long career at the San Francisco Naval Shipyard, but her real passion was cooking. Mary has been a staple within her community, gaining notoriety for tackling what we now know as food insecurity. Her goal of healing communities through food materialized with her independent efforts to share her love for cooking with her local community. Whether she was sharing plates of food with members of her Church or setting up food delivery at local parks to feed members of the community, Mary relished in the joy that full stomachs became a reality for those in need; and

WHEREAS, Mary's husband, all of her siblings, and five of her seven children have passed over the years, with each loss taking a toll on her in different ways. She now enjoys spending quality time with her remaining children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, for her 100th birthday, Dorinda Clark Cole of the Grammy Award winning Clark Sisters, gave her a birthday shout out and sang a rendition of Mary's favorite "call and response" worship song, "I Made a Vow to the Lord and I Won't Tack it Back;" and

WHEREAS, when anyone asks Mary what secret accounts for her longevity, what she's most proud of in her life, or what is her biggest accomplishment, the same three-pronged answer is her response: joining the Church, her abiding Faith, and her devotion to God. She has been a faithful member of the New Gethsemane Church of God in Christ in Richmond for more than 50 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby send wishes to Mary Smith for a happy, healthy 102nd birthday and thanks her for her decades of service to her family and community.

PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 18th day of April 2023.

Absent

JOHN GIOIA
Chair,
District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN
District II Supervisor

DIANE BURGIS
District III Supervisor

KEN CARLSON
District IV Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER
District V Supervisor



I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown:

ATTESTED: April 18, 2023

MONICA NINO, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator

By _____, Deputy