

**RESOLUTION 2019-78**

INTRODUCED BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE  
FAMILY OF COLONEL ROY RICHARDSON**

**WHEREAS**, Oakwood Village resident, Roy Richardson, passed away December 3, 2019 at the age of 91; and

**WHEREAS**, born November 9, 1929, Roy was an energetic child which he exhibited throughout his entire adult life; and

**WHEREAS**, after graduation from East Tech High School, he joined the Army Corp's first all African American Combat Unit and served as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen during WW II. He was assigned to the 91<sup>st</sup> Strategic Air Command. Colonel Roy Richardson displayed courage and resilience during his tenure. He played woodwind instruments in the 766<sup>th</sup> Army Air Corp band and in 2007, the Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Medal of Honor from President George W. Bush; and

**WHEREAS**, just out of high school, this handsome young soldier called on Sarah Elizabeth Weeden's older sister who stood him up. Sarah, feeling sorry for his dilemma, sat with him on the front porch where they talked. The two forged a relationship over time and married three years later, which lasted a lifetime. From their union, they had two daughters; Gladys and Stacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colonel owned several businesses, including a gas station and a skating rink even while he was employed by Hy-Grade Paving. He retired after more than 40 years of conscientious service, having received a beautiful plaque commemorating his many years of service to the company. He was a brick mason and in 1950, he used his experience to build the first home he and Sarah lived in. It was in Wickliffe and later, he built his beautiful Spanish-style home in Oakwood Village. He didn't stop with his own home though; he enjoyed helping friends with projects where he could use his many talents. When visiting his home, he could be found working on one of his many projects; and

**WHEREAS**, this hard-working man enjoyed landscaping and took pride in the park-like setting he provided for his family at their Oakwood home with a gazebo, windmill, walkways and trellises along with a plethora of annuals which cascaded throughout his property. This created a great place for him to entertain family and friends as well as providing a place of solitude; and

**WHEREAS**, as a model train enthusiast, he turned his basement into a multi-train exhibition. His locomotives were each fitted with a computer chip allowing him to run four trains on the same track at the same time; and

**WHEREAS**, as a father, he involved himself with his family and enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren. They traveled and enjoyed camping. The family was active in the American Field Service; hosting exchange students from around the world. Roy also enjoyed watching TV; his favorite shows were on the Discovery Channel, the History Channel and the Biography Channel. He had an insatiable desire to continually learn; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colonel was a long-time member of Mt. Zion Church of Oakwood. In addition, Roy was a member of the Prince Hall Masonic Order from 1956 and held several national positions attaining the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree. Roy was very much involved with the Shriner's, which principles in brotherly love, relief and truth. He traveled annually to the Shriner's conventions; and

**WHEREAS**, he received a key to the Village of Oakwood for his lifetime achievements from Mayor Gottschalk and from the City of Cleveland by Mayor Frank Jackson. Councilwoman Eloise Hardin is quoted to say "to the family of friends of Mr. Roy Richardson on behalf of his long-time neighbors please accept my deepest sympathy. As an African American myself, as a child of a World War II veteran, I was proud to know that such a major part of American history lived in Oakwood Village. He was a hero and he will be missed. Thank you for sharing this American treasure. His life and service to this country will always be remembered in our hearts"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colonel experienced grief when his mother, Mattie C. Askew Richardson passed away, again with the passing of his wife, Sarah, after 54 years of marital bliss and his dear sister, Gertrude Larkins; and

**WHEREAS**, Roy Richardson leaves a legacy to his loving daughters; Gladys and Stacy Richardson, his four granddaughters; Chonda (Martin) Williams, Heather Richardson, Nicole Thomas and Robyn Williams, his four great-grandchildren; Londyn, Jeremiah, Journey and Troi; his sister; Estelle Spence, Eleanor Cannaday, James Lynn, along with a host of family and friends; and

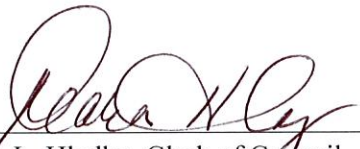
**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT** by the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga, and State of Ohio, that:

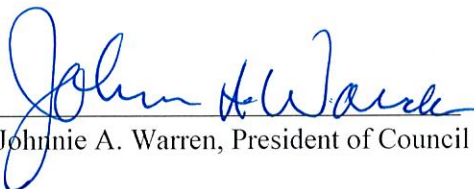
**SECTION 1.** The Village Council and Mayor wish to express their most sincere condolences to the family of Roy Richardson and hope the fond memories of such a fine, caring person comforts them in their loss. A commemorative memorial has been added to the wall of honor in Oakwood Council Chambers honoring Colonel Roy Richardson.

**SECTION 2.** The Clerk is hereby authorized to present a copy of this resolution to the family of Roy Richardson.

**SECTION 3.** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption by this Council and approved by the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: December 10, 2017

  
Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council

  
Johnnie A. Warren, President of Council

Presented to the  
Mayor December 11, 2017



Approved: December 12, 2019  
Mayor – Gary V. Gottschalk

I, Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2019-78 was duly and regularly passed by this Council at the meeting held on the 10 day of December 2019.

  
Clerk of Council

Part of our rich history with a plaque on our council chambers wall

## POSTING CERTIFICATE

I, Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that Resolution 2019-78 was duly posted on the 12 day of December 2019 and will remain posted for a period of fifteen (15) days thereafter in the Council Chambers and in not less than (5) of the most public places in the municipality as determined by the Council of the said Village.

  
Clerk of CouncilDATED: December 12, 2019