RESOLUTION 2019-37

INTRODUCED BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Introduced by Motioned by Seconded by 1st Reading 2nd Reading Third Reading Under suspension 5.44.19

A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF CLEASTER FOWLER



WHEREAS, lifelong Oakwood Village resident, Cleaster Fowler, passed away May 6, 2019, at the age of 94; and

WHEREAS, Cleaster was born to the late Lonnie and Ethel Fowler February 14, 1925. He had two brothers; Waymon and Lonnie Jr. (both deceased), and two sisters; Mary Emily and Juanita. His given name seemed too formal for family and friends, so he was affectionally referred to as "Bubba"; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Bedford High School, he served his country in the U.S. Navy as a chef during the WWII conflict and after three years of service in the Philippines and Guam, was

honorably discharged in 1946; and

WHEREAS, in 1947 he married his childhood sweetheart, Flora Wallace, and from the union they had four children; Naomi, Glenn, Paul, Steven; and

WHEREAS, due to his dedicated service as a Bedford School Bus Driver, transporting special-needs children, he was awarded Bedford's "Man of the Year". After 32 years of service, he retired in 1986. One of his students kept in contact with him throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, Cleaster was known as a kind, compassionate man with a great sense of humor and a light-hearted spirit, who loved his wife and family. He and his wife, Flora, enjoyed a lifelong love affair rarely seen in marriages today. Their relationship was an inspiration, as others watched them arrive hand-in-hand at Village concerts and trips. As stated by Mayor Gottschalk, during a congratulatory event in their honor several years ago, the Mayor exclaimed "The two displayed boundless energy and a zest for life. This type of love, devotion and commitment to marriage and the Lord is a shining example of what makes a marriage work. Each of you have meticulously crafted a marriage built on a foundation of love and trust, one nourished throughout the years by the love and devotion of your children." The two enjoyed a 50th wedding anniversary on a seven-day cruise to Alaska followed by a land tour, of which Flora still holds dear, fond memories of the trip; and

WHEREAS, though his children are living in other states and overseas, they remained a close-knit family. Cleaster created lasting memories for his children. Even when they were young, the family traveled; camping in 40 of the lower 48 states and Canada; and

WHEREAS, he served as a Pastor of several Church of God congregations in Erie, PA, Jamestown, NY, Warren, OH, Triadelphia, WV and Ravenna, Ohio. His favorite Bible verse was the calming, Psalm 23.

WHEREAS, the Village of Oakwood is grateful for his service on several committees and commissions, including the Oakwood Village Zoning Commission for many years. His sage advice guided the Mayor's decisions many times; and

WHEREAS, Cleaster enjoyed cooking; his favorite meals to prepare were fried chicken with green beans and homemade potato salad, and the Thanksgiving meal with turkey and all the fixings. He also had a signature recipe for oatmeal which he made with love. Although he didn't bake, Flora enjoyed finished the meals with scrumptious homemade desserts; and

WHEREAS, he also enjoyed hunting and fishing with his father-in-law, who lived next door to him; and

WHEREAS, this gentle peacemaking, godly man will be sorely missed by his devoted wife of 71 years; Flora E, his loving children; Naomi J. Smart, Glenn (Colleen) Fowler, Paul W. (Mary) Fowler and Stephen W (Rochelle) Fowler, his cherished grandchildren; Aaron, Cassandra, Lonny, Benjamin, Nicole, Nathan, Christiana, Alex, Emanuel, Austin, Jacob and Noah, his 24 dear great grandchildren, his loving sisters; Mary Fowler and Juanita Williams, his church family, friends and neighbors; 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 Cleaster Fowler and hope the fond memories of such a fine, caring person comforts them in their loss.

SECTION 2. The Clerk is hereby authorized to present a copy of this resolution to the family of Cleaster Fowler.

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: May 14, 2019

Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Concil

Johnnie A. Warren, President of Council

Mayor <u>May 15 2019</u>
Approved: <u>May 15 2019</u>

POSTING CERTIFICATE

Clerk of Council

DATED: May 5 3019