

To Codified?

1st Read 1-12-2021 2nd Read \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> Read \_\_\_\_\_ Under Suspension \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION 2021-01**

INTRODUCED BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF  
GLADYS M. RUFFIN**



**WHEREAS**, longtime resident of the Village of Oakwood, Gladys M. Ruffin, passed on to her eternal home, on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at the age of 84; and

**WHEREAS**, born in Faunsdale, Alabama on April 21, 1936, she later moved to the Cleveland area where she met her loving husband, Deacon Jesse J. Ruffin, who preceded her into glory; and

**WHEREAS**, she and her husband built their dream home in Oakwood in 1973 and raised their children, Jesse Jr., Reynold, Gladys, Julia and Jonathan, in the admonition of the Lord; and

**WHEREAS**, she was lovingly and respectfully known as Mother Ruffin for her nonsense God-honoring ways. She instructed her children to attend church and honor God; she did not give them an option. Gladys was an avid prayer warrior and could be found fasting and praying for others while encouraging her children to do the same; and

**WHEREAS**, her April birthday was a spiritual celebration since she came to know Christ at a young age in the same month. Gladys’ children and family accompanied her to church on what became known as “Family Day”, to celebrate her spiritual birthday, even as adults; and

**WHEREAS**, Mother Ruffin walked out her faith even during her daily neighborhood strolls. While carrying a walking stick, she greeted each person she saw with a “Word from the Lord” until the year a black bear was spotted in the area. Although she did not see it, she would not walk the neighborhood again; and

**WHEREAS**, as the matriarch of the family, she always required love and unity. This was demonstrated when she suddenly appeared at a family gathering after being told by her doctor, she should not make the 16-hour drive to Alabama. To this day, no one knows what strings she pulled to get a flight out that day; and

**WHEREAS**, Mother Ruffin enjoyed cooking for her family and others. Matter of fact, Thanksgiving occurred every month of the year with turkey, homemade dressing, collard greens,

and sweet potato pie, which was a family favorite. She taught her family her culinary secrets to carry on the traditions; and

**WHEREAS**, Gladys would not watch television unless it had something to do with Christ. She was quoted to say, “I don’t want to look at that junk.” Also, for their anniversary, her husband gave her a full-length chinchilla coat and matching hat. Sometime later, seeing one of her relatives in need, she gave it to her, knowing she didn’t have a coat. She was quoted to say, “Silver and gold doesn’t mean anything, just give me Jesus”; and

**WHEREAS**, recently, while in a rehab center for strengthening, her son, Jesse, was able to have her moved to a more comfortable venue and was able to visit her daily. He prayed with her and listened as she enjoyed the music of her favorite artist, Mahalia Jackson. Mother Ruffin had a unique opportunity to spend time with all her family in a pandemic, through the technology of “Zoom”. She encouraged each one to continue on in their faith before transitioning into Heaven; even naming a successor to carry-on “Family Day”; and

**WHEREAS**, Gladys M. Ruffin’s rich legacy will live on in her children: Deacon Jesse J. Ruffin Jr. (Carolyn deceased), Deacon Reynold Ruffin (Diane), Dr. Julia Ruffin, Gladys M. Erkard (deceased) (James), and Jonathan Ruffin (Laura deceased), her nine grandchildren, her thirteen great-grandchildren, her 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 Gladys M. Ruffin 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 Gladys M. Ruffin.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Johnnie A. Warren, President of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council

Presented to the  
Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
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. 2021-01 was duly and regularly passed by this Council at the meeting held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

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 2021-01 was duly posted on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021 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 Council

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_