

PROCLAMATION

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH AKINS FOR HER SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF WALDEN

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Taylor Akins, passed away on December 10, 2022, at the age of ninety-one (91). Born in the red dirt, hill country of Roanoke, Alabama, on August 2, 1931, she was the oldest of five (5) children. Like her mother, Lillian Dunn Taylor, Elizabeth graduated from Auburn University.

WHEREAS, while attending Auburn University, Elizabeth met her husband, Frank Terrell Akins, Jr., who had returned from WWII and was attending college on the GI Bill. Frank moved Elizabeth and their family to Walden's Ridge, when he became a pharmacist at Parkridge Hospital in 1971.

WHEREAS, Elizabeth was known to many as the Walden Warrior. She was instrumental in forming the Town of Walden where she and her husband were part of a small group of citizens that went door-to-door to get signatures to incorporate the Town of Walden. Elizabeth was the first employee of the town beginning in 1975 and served until 1996 when she became the Mayor of Walden; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth wore many hats as an employee of Walden including: the first town clerk, town recorder, clerk of court, bookkeeper, payroll administrator, receptionist, zoning and transportation administration; and

WHEREAS, her home served as the center of town business for a couple of decades and the family home phone was the main number for the town. Elizabeth's entire family took pride in answering all calls for the Town of Walden. Elizabeth even had notes by the phone to help calculate how much a parking ticket would be, so a caller could mail in their payment instead of coming to Walden for their court date; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth was active in many town projects including the Pumpkin Patch and McCoy Farm and Garden. Elizabeth treasured her relationship with Martha McCoy and lobbied and budgeted funds for Walden to acquire and later open the McCoy Farm and Garden. The historic 38-acre farm houses the renovated barn named "Ms. Elizabeth!" in her honor; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth remained active in Town of Walden business by continuing to attend Walden town meetings as a 91-year-old. Even while in the nursing home, she was receiving reports of town business from her faithful friends; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth was one of the oldest members of Wayside Presbyterian Church. She loved God, family, Walden, and Chattanooga Politics, reading, cooking, gardening, dogs, travel, the undefeated 2011 Auburn War Eagles national championship football team, but mostly sharing time with any and all who came near; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, the town of Walden would like to show our appreciation of Elizabeth's dedication to our town by this express recognition to her family: her children, Frank Terrell Akins, III; Elizabeth Anne Akins; Paul Taylor Akins; and Nancy Jane Akins Manning; their spouses; her eight (8) grandchildren, and four (4) great-grandchildren; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, by the town of Walden that we recognize Elizabeth Akins for her generous years of public service to the town of Walden and its residents.



DATED at Walden, Hamilton County, Tennessee this 9th day of May, 2023.



Lee Davis, Mayor



Lizzy Schmidt, Vice Mayor



Angela Cassidy, Alderman

ATTEST:



Mariah Prescott, Walden Town Administrator