

CITY COUNCIL**The City of Orange Township, New Jersey**DATE August 2, 2023NUMBER 285-2023**TITLE:**

A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HOPE DOREEN WEBSTER (Submitted by Councilmember-at-Large Adrienne Wooten, South Ward Councilmember Jamie Summers-Johnson and the Orange Municipal Council)

WHEREAS, Hope Doreen Webster of Orange, New Jersey, entered into eternal rest of July 15, 2023 at the age of 76; and

WHEREAS, Hope was born March 15, 1947 in Orange, New Jersey to the late Edward and Bessie Edgar. She was the third of six children born to this union; and

WHEREAS, Hope began a relationship with God through Jesus Christ at an early age. Her continues spirituality and altruistic love were shining examples to all who knew her; and

WHEREAS, Hope was a bright and intelligent child. She attended Cleveland Street Elementary School. Her interest in teaching developed at a young age. She was encouraged and guided to value education and committed herself to her studies; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from Cleveland Street Elementary School, she continued to excel in her studies and activities at Orange High School; and

WHEREAS, her desire to teach was strengthened by an unwavering support from a determined mother who believed in her and pushed back against *the* status quo; and

WHEREAS, despite attempts by some of her teachers at that time to deter her from her dream, she graduated in 1965 and continued her studies at Cheyney State College known today as Cheyney University the 1st Historically Black College and University; and

WHEREAS, while attending college she pledged Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. in the spring of 1968 and got involved in efforts to fight for equal rights for people of color on and off campus; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Cheyney with her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary school education, she returned to her beloved hometown of Orange; and

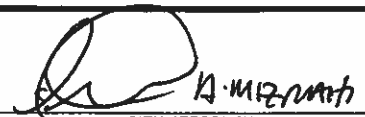
WHEREAS, Hope became an elementary school teacher at the same school she attended as a little girl; and

WHEREAS, throughout her long career as an educator, she has helped to enlighten the minds and contribute to the professional endeavors of many 3rd and 4th graders; and

WHEREAS, as a teacher, she brought passion, dedication, creativity, and integrity to academia; and

WHEREAS, Hope wore many hats including social worker, counselor, coach, motivator among other things to every student that came to Room 11 on the 2nd Floor; and

WHEREAS, she was part of a legacy of teachers who went above and beyond for her students; and


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WHEREAS, she worked with parents to help them understand and support their children through many academic or behavioral challenges; and

WHEREAS, any student fortunate enough to have been taught by Ms. Webster will tell you how much they loved being in her class; and

WHEREAS, she made learning fun while ensuring students developed basic skills in reading, writing and arithmetic; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Hope Webster retired from an illustrious teaching career after 36 years of inspiring and educating Orange's young people. Even in retirement she continued to provide more students with her signature style and brand of teaching working as a substitute teacher in the Orange School District; and

WHEREAS, Hope Webster was a rare gem whose love of her role as an educator has made long lasting impressions on the students she taught. She continued to be a beacon of light to other educators currently in the field by providing her invaluable wisdom and guidance; and

WHEREAS, in addition to teaching, Hope was a member of various professional and community service organizations including the National Education Association, New Jersey Education Association, and Orange Education Association as well as the Essex County Retired Educators Association and Mims Hackett Civic Association; and

WHEREAS, she further exhibited her dedication to uplifting the Orange community by serving as a Girl Scout Leader, Vacation Bible School teacher at the Orange United Methodist Church, YWCA volunteer, PTO Student liaison for Cleveland Street School, Literacy Volunteers of America, Friends of the Orange Public Library, Purpose Driven girls and a private tutor; and

WHEREAS, Hope was very social and loved to enjoy time with her family and friends. She was a part of a travel Group with her parents for many years traveling to many places across the globe including Morrocco, Venezuela, Aruba, Curacao, Canada, Spain and Grenada just to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Hope was also very engaged with the Montclair Library Book Club, Yoga, Friday morning Senior Club, Orange Retirement Club, and Arts Unbound; and

WHEREAS, Hope loved life and found hobbies and activities that gave her pleasure. She loved to entertain and in so doing she would always make sure you were well fed and treated to the best in hospitality; and

WHEREAS, Hope was an avid bowler who loved to *laugh*, play board games, do puzzles, and make jewelry. She particularly loved to create special pieces for her best customer, her sister Faith; and

WHEREAS, Hope also took pride in tending to her garden that always attracted a lot of attention from neighbors and those who passed by with the beautiful flowers that bloomed in abundance each spring; and

WHEREAS, Hope received various awards for her work in academia and the community. Her awards included Governor's Teacher Recognition Award, Principal's Attendance Award, Orange Board of Education Service Award, Mims Hackett Civic Association Award and District Outstanding Teacher Award. Hope was also nominated for Who's Who Among Teachers; and

WHEREAS, Hope was always a vocal force in the Orange community advocating for the rights of others and supporting those causes that enrich the community, and most especially the children; and

WHEREAS, Hope Webster was preceded in death by her parents Edward L. Edgar Sr. and Bessie Edgar, She is survived by siblings: Edward Edgar Jr., Frank Edgar (Barbara), Faith Edgar, Kim Edgar (Joanne) and Mark Edgar, nieces and nephews: Faith Edgar and Thomas Edwards, Yvonne Williams (Lawrence), Marci McCray, Shawn Craig (Claude), Edward Edgar III (Allison), her longtime friend, Michael Richmond and a host of cousins, friends, honorary nieces and nephews and students.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township celebrates the life of Hope Doreen Webster.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on the citizens of the City of Orange Township to do the same.

Adopted: August 2, 2023

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President