



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

SARAH STEVENSON DAY

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Sarah Mingo was born in Heath Springs, South Carolina, in 1925; the oldest of 14 children, her lifelong commitment to service began with caring for her family and younger siblings; and

WHEREAS, Sarah met her husband, Robert Louis Stevenson, while working in the housekeeping department at Charlotte Memorial Hospital; the couple settled in Charlotte, and went on to raise four sons together; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Stevenson first became involved with the PTA to raise money for new band uniforms at her son's school; this initiative served as a catalyst for ongoing activism, and she was soon named head of the district's black PTA council; and

WHEREAS, Stevenson played a prominent role in merging Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' black and white PTAs well before the courts forced desegregation; she made history as the first African-American woman elected to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Board of Education, and served two terms from 1980 – 1988; and

WHEREAS, Stevenson's career includes work for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council, Charlotte Area Fund, and the City of Charlotte Community Relations Committee; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Stevenson co-founded the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum, a platform for issues of importance to the African American community in particular and the rest of Charlotte in general; she continues to lead the weekly discussions to this day; and

WHEREAS, the Sarah & Samuel Stevenson Scholarship Fund provides support for Johnson C. Smith University students; Stevenson also founded the South African Students Fund to expand education opportunities for South African students interested in attending college in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2017, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership will dedicate their newest workforce housing community in honor of Sarah Stevenson; The Stevenson Apartments will stand as a lasting testament to her lifelong commitment and service to the greater Charlotte community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 18, 2017, as "SARAH STEVENSON DAY" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.




Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this seventeenth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.