

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NINA SIMONE

2019

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Ms. Nina Simone was born Eunice Kathleen Waymon on February 21, 1933 in Tryon, North Carolina; the sixth of eight children, Ms. Simone was a child prodigy who began playing piano at the age of three and later trained to become a concert pianist; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Simone defied era and genre, boasting over four decades of international performance and masterfully delivering soul-stirring pop, jazz, blues, classical, folk and spiritual tunes; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Simone was a civil rights activist who was dedicated to breathing life and awareness into the African American experience; her friends included Malcolm X, Lorraine Hansberry and Langston Hughes; her recording of “Mississippi Goddam,” after the assassinations of Medgar Evers, Addie May Collins, Carol Denise McNair, Cynthia Wesley and Carole Rosamond Robertson, was selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the National Recording Registry for its cultural and historical significance; and

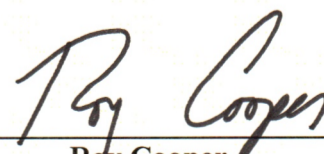
WHEREAS, Ms. Simone’s recording of George Gershwin’s “I Loves You, Porgy” was her only number one Billboard hit and her other well-known tunes include “To Be Young, Gifted and Black,” “Four Women,” “Feeling Good” and “My Baby Just Cares for Me;” her life is the subject of the Oscar-nominated and Emmy Award winning documentary film “What Happened, Miss Simone?”; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Simone influenced countless artists, including Aretha Franklin, Beyoncé, Madonna, Janis Joplin, Talib Kweli, Peter Gabriel and many others; she is a member of the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Rolling Stone Magazine’s “100 Greatest Singers of All Time;” a street is named for her in Nijmegen, Netherlands, and a statue of her anchors the beautiful Nina Simone Plaza in downtown Tryon, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, with the help of four African American artists, Ms. Simone’s childhood home was designated a National Treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in June of 2018 — one of only two National Treasures in the State of North Carolina;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, on August 17, 2019, do hereby proclaim “**THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NINA SIMONE**” in North Carolina, to commemorate one of North Carolina’s brightest stars 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 sixteenth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-third.