



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREENSBORO SIT-INS

2020

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Greensboro Sit-In Movement began on February 1, 1960, when Jibreel Khazan (then Ezell Blair, Jr.), Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, and David Richmond – four African American students from what is now North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University – planned and staged a protest at the F.W. Woolworth in downtown Greensboro; and

WHEREAS, driven to action by the brutal 1955 murder of a young black boy named, Emmett Till, these men, known as the Greensboro Four, sat at the Woolworth's lunch counter in segregated seats for white customers only; after being denied service, they politely refused to leave, and although the manager called the police, they remained in their seats until the store closed; and

WHEREAS, the Greensboro Four's bravery and resilience inspired the sit-in movement that quickly spread throughout North Carolina and across the nation as other students, civil rights organizations, and individuals organized their own non-violent protests by claiming spaces in segregated businesses; and

WHEREAS, within months, Southern restaurants changed their policies to integrate, and on July 25, 1960, the F.W. Woolworth in Greensboro began serving African American patrons at its lunch counter; and

WHEREAS, this 60th anniversary commemorates the protesters' actions that made an immediate and lasting impact, inspiring other nonviolent protests and serving as a catalyst for the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, local civic leaders Melvin "Skip" Alston and Earl F. Jones purchased the original Woolworth's building in Greensboro under the auspices of Sit-in Movement, Inc., and created the International Civil Rights Center and Museum to memorialize the events of 1960; and

WHEREAS, stools from the Greensboro Four's sit-in can be found at the National Museum of American History and the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., commemorating their important place in the Civil Rights Movement and our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina commends the countless volunteers, organizations, and contributors who have worked to support and honor the legacy of the Greensboro Four;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 1, 2020, "**IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREENSBORO SIT-INS**" 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 first day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.