

**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
HONORING THE MEMORY OF
LEOLA DORIS WILLIAMS MORGAN**

WHEREAS, Leola W. Morgan served this community well as a dedicated, tireless and enthusiastic public servant; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Morgan holds the distinction as the first African-American City Councilwoman for the City of Elizabeth City, having honorably served our community in this capacity from March 1989 until December 1991; and

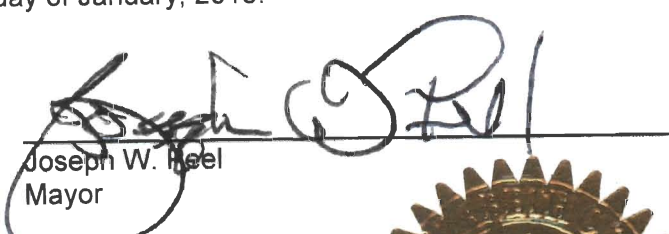
WHEREAS, Mrs. Morgan was a loved, well-known and well-respected Councilwoman, who is remembered as taking a keen interest in the betterment and future of our community; and

WHEREAS, her participation in many charitable, educational, civic, fraternal and church organizations earned for her the respect of a multitude of area residents representing all ages and walks of life; and

WHEREAS, her exemplary conduct and sense of fairness displayed in all her activities furthered the cause of better understanding and has been an influence for good in the growth and progress of our community.


NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joseph W. Peel, Mayor of the City of Elizabeth City by virtue of the authority vested in me and speaking on behalf of the entire City Council and all our citizens, do hereby tender to the family of Leola Doris Williams Morgan, this **CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION** extending our deep gratitude for her distinguished and honorable service throughout her lifetime to the citizens of this community.

PRESENTED, this the 17th day of January, 2015.



Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

ATTEST:



Vivian D. White, CMC/NCCMC
City Clerk





Leola Doris Williams Morgan

was born January 10, 1917, to her proud and devoted parents, Mr. Lee Andrew and Mrs. Grenada M. Williams. Her family also included her devoted sister, Velma W. Butts, brothers, Andrew, Jr., Medford and Andrew Healon Williams (all now deceased); and two cousins, Mrs. Edna Staton, of Norfolk, Virginia, and Miss Ira Martin of New York City who became foster sisters.

She began her education as a first grade student at Cale Street School. From first grade she was promoted to the third grade, from fourth to sixth, and then to seventh grade at Trigg School during its first year. Grades eighth through twelfth were spent at P.W. Moore High School, where she participated in many activities. After graduation she entered Elizabeth City State Normal school, in 1934, at age 14. Remembering her parents' old saying, "Aim high - The sky is the limit," she always tried to excel, and never settled for mediocrity; therefore, she was always an Honor Student. Her student teaching was done in 1936 at Trigg Training School, under the guidance of Mrs. Eva Johnson, who was a very strict teacher in every respect.

Mrs. Morgan always knew she wanted to be a teacher. After her graduation from Elizabeth City State Normal School, at age 16, Rev. R.R. Purnell offered her a teaching job in Jackson, NC. She accepted and felt well prepared to meet the challenge of her first teaching. She taught third and tenth grade English, in addition to being in charge of the High School Glee Club. Because her parents wanted her to be closer to home, she accepted a job in Elizabeth City, as Principal of Ramoth Gilead School on Newland Highway. Upon closing of the school, she then was sent to work at Mill Pond School, which was eventual consolidated with Elizabeth City Public Schools.

In the meantime, she married her beloved husband, Erskine E. Morgan, a classmate, friend, and admirer who was teaching in Elm City, NC High School at the time. He later became Principal of Rosenwald School, in South Mills, and Mrs. Morgan joined him as a teacher in charge of the music.

The following year, her husband was called to serve in the U.S. Army, and she went to live with him in San Luis Obispo, CA, for ten months. While there she served as secretary for the U.S.O. When he was sent overseas, she returned home, where she accepted a teaching position in Northampton County.

Upon Erskine's return home, they were invited to jobs in Elizabeth City. Mrs. Morgan taught at Sheep-Harney Elementary School, until her retirement in 1979. The years spent at Sheep-Harney were truly enjoyable for her under the leadership of one of the world's finest principals, Mr. Bill Bunnell.

Two years after her retirement, Rev. John E. Trotman called to tell Mrs. Morgan that a group of City Fathers and Civic Men had met and chosen her to be the first African-American City Councilwoman in Elizabeth City. Later she would find that she was the first in the State of North Carolina. This honorable position was just one of the more than 47 community, civic, and educational recognitions bestowed upon her.

Throughout her life Mrs. Morgan has tried to live as a "role model" for children, live by the "Golden Rule", to always be a lady, to always be a "lady", love everybody and do right, avoid disturbances and gossip, share with the less fortunate, lend a helping hand - always, do a good deed daily, and live a life worthy of imitation. These qualities are exemplified in her personal, professional, and civic endeavors.

She held membership in many organizations, including the ECSU General Alumni Association, NEA (Life Member), AARP, NCAE, National Association of University Women (Charter Member of the Elizabeth City Branch), Matrons Social Literary Club, Just Pals Pokena Group, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, George Washington Carver Floral Club (Hertford), Virginia Travel, Inc., Comer Stone Missionary Baptist Church, ECSU Booster Club, Board of Directors for River City Development Corporation, NAACP (where she has been the first secretary of the local chapter), and was Assistant Director for the Girls Club of Elizabeth City (1938 - 1952), with Mrs. Sadie O. Griffin.

There were many happy days in Mrs. Morgan's life. Among the happiest have been when she became engaged to and married her husband, when her son, Erskine Morgan II was born, and when her son received both his B.S. from Hampton University, and his M.A. from Norfolk State University, later becoming a principal and being elected as a member of the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Board of Education, and most important, becoming a grandmother.

In spite of her many honors, achievements, and recognitions, Mrs. Morgan always said, "I still know how to keep my feet on the ground. Thank God for all of you."