

Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

RESOLUTION

HONORING PHILANTHROPIST SARAH BELK GAMBRELL

WHEREAS, the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County (DWMC) and the greater Democratic community lost an exemplary leader, invaluable friend, and generous supporter with the loss of longtime member Sarah Belk Gambrell, who died Thursday, July 30, 2020, in Charlotte, at the age of 102 years;

WHEREAS, this trailblazing businesswoman and self-described “rebel,” born two years before women won the right to vote, served as a pioneer for women in business, politics, and philanthropy. Ms. Gambrell was a tireless and dedicated changemaker and leader in the community, working to build broad support to advance progressive initiatives, and to grow Democratic leaders, especially women, for which she was honored in 2008 by the DWMC as the Doris Cromartie Woman of the Year;

WHEREAS, Ms. Gambrell left a tremendous legacy through her namesake Foundation created in 1988 to benefit Colleges and Universities, YWCAs, Medical Research, Arts, Music, and History, funding some of Charlotte’s most forward-thinking initiatives, donating \$7 million in grants last year, according to its 2019 annual report, and her generous contributions to Queens University of Charlotte, building the Sarah Belk Gambrell Center for Arts and Civic Engagement to support and inspire young people; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County honors the memory of Sarah Belk Gambrell and celebrates her legacy of leadership, kindness, compassion, and “lifelong commitment to supporting and creating change,” enriching her community and paving the way for the next generation of female leaders and philanthropists, inspiring us all with her dedication and generosity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we extend our sincerest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to her family, friends, associates, and all those whose futures were made brighter by the life and legacy of Sarah Belk Gambrell.

Unanimously Approved by the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County
August 12, 2020