

TOWN COUNCIL

STAFF REPORT Executive Office



MEETING DATE:	June 8, 2021
PROJECT:	Consideration of a Resolution Memorializing the Watershed Management Building located at 1261 May River Road in Honor of the Legacy of Community Contributions and Public Service Rendered by Jennie Kitty
PROJECT MANAGER:	Lisa Cunningham, Interim Assistant Town Manager

RECOMMENDATION:

Request Town Council consideration of a Resolution Memorializing the Watershed Management Building located at 1261 May River Road in Honor of the Legacy of Community Contributions and Public Service Rendered by Jennie Kitty as "Jennie Kitty Municipal Building."

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Jennie Kitty has made a long-lasting contribution of public service to the Bluffton Community. Her motto was "If I can help somebody as I travel along the way then my living shall not be in vain."

Mrs. Kitty, a native of the Lowcountry and a graduate of the Penn School on St. Helena Island, was the first African-American Licensed Practical Nurse in the Bluffton community and acted as midwife for thirty-nine children born in the Bluffton community when travel to the nearest hospital was not readily available.

Mrs. Kitty worked at the Bluffton Health Clinic which is located on 1261 May River Rd as a medical professional, Mrs. Kitty worked tirelessly with Dr. Donald Gatch despite facing active resistance from forces throughout the area and the state at large. Mrs. Jennie Kitty's efforts to expose the problems caused by intestinal parasites and her work on curing infected individuals helped countless individuals and families in Bluffton and beyond.

In addition to her work in the medical field, in 1964, Mrs. Kitty petitioned President Lyndon B. Johnson for funding to establish the Bluffton Day Care Center, now known as the Bluffton Community Center, a nonprofit that has served Bluffton's residents, young and old, for over six decades.

NEXT STEPS:

Pending Town Council approval of the Resolution, staff will work with the Kitty Family to establish a date for the dedication ceremony honoring the late Jennie Kitty.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution Memorializing the Watershed Management Building located at 1261 May River Road in Honor of the Legacy of Community Contributions and Public Service Rendered by Jennie Kitty.
2. Language for Motion to Approve.
3. Background Information.