

A RESOLUTION

No. _____

WHEREAS, former Columbus, Georgia Mayor Robert S. Poydasheff died on September 24, 2020; and

WHEREAS, he earned a B.A. in Political Science from The Citadel in 1954, a J.D. from Tulane University Law School in 1957, an M.A. in International Relations from Boston University's Graduate Program in Berlin, Germany in 1967, and attended The Hague Academy of International Law in The Netherlands in preparation for a military and subsequent civilian career that focused on serving others; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry Branch of the United States Army; he was reassigned to the Judge Advocate General's Corps; a 1976 graduate of the U.S. Army War College, he served a total of twenty-four years, retiring as a Colonel in 1979; he was decorated with the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star Medal and Vietnam Ribbon with Four Battle Stars; during his military career and because of his expert legal acumen he was assigned to work on the biggest cases of the time in which he served, but during this he never lost sight of what he considered his primary role, which was to take care of soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Robert S. Poydasheff was appointed as legal counsel to the Secretary of the Army and served the needs of all soldiers by helping to shape Army policy; in 2012, the Army War College Foundation named Colonel Poydasheff an Outstanding Alumnus in recognition of his wide-ranging service to his community after his retirement from active duty; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Poydasheff served on the Columbus, Georgia City Council from 1994 - 2002, helping all citizens of the community he had come to love while concurrently serving Ft. Benning and his beloved soldiers; and

WHEREAS, he was elected Mayor of Columbus, Georgia in 2002, served a four-year term and maintained a focus on community-based programs as well as strengthening the relationship between the City and Ft. Benning; during this time he made great contributions to the joint military and civilian communities of Columbus, Georgia and Ft. Benning appointing first a fellow soldier and later the first African American to the City Manager position, while knowing that doing so would be at his own political peril; and

WHEREAS, his service as Mayor of Columbus, Georgia, Robert S. Poydasheff found continued success as a practicing lawyer helping

countless citizens and soldiers living in the City he once led as well as advocating for many soldiers in the area; his continued interest in the betterment of the City as well as his contributions to the Veterans Action Committee has a continued impact to this day; and

WHEREAS, he served as past president of the Chattahoochee Council -- Boy Scouts of America; past president of the Chattahoochee Valley Association of the United States Army; past president of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra; member of the Board of Directors of the Springer Opera Arts Association; past president of the Ann Elizabeth Shepherd Home; and member of the Kiwanis Club and Columbus Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Columbus, Georgia desires to support the naming of a Veterans Administration Clinic in Columbus, Georgia after former Mayor Robert S. Poydasheff as recognition of his service to our community and our country.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

We hereby express our support for and request that a Veterans Administration Clinic in Columbus, Georgia be named in honor of former Mayor Robert S. Poydasheff as a fitting memorial for his service to the Columbus, Georgia community, our nation's soldiers and our country.

The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Honorable Robert Wilkie, Georgia Senators David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler, and Congressmen Sanford Bishop and Drew Ferguson.

Presented at the regular meeting of said Council of Columbus, Georgia, held on the 13th day of October, 2020.

Councilor Allen	voting _____.
Councilor Barnes	voting _____.
Councilor Crabb	voting _____.
Councilor Davis	voting _____.
Councilor Garrett	voting _____.
Councilor House	voting _____.
Councilor Huff	voting _____.
Councilor Thomas	voting _____.
Councilor Tucker	voting _____.
Councilor Woodson	voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III