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FEB 25 2022

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

Grand Rapids Arts & Culture Commission
420 N. Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids MN 55744

To Whom It May Concern,

I nominate Ken Clifton for the 2022 Mayor's Art Award. His music career started with playing piano and accordion in various talent shows in high school. He continued by giving piano lessons at Crippa Music from 1956-1963 until leaving for the Vietnam War. Following his return to the area, he has played in countless bands and various dances throughout the Northland. In 2001, he joined The Mostly Country Band and from 2001-2019 they played at nursing homes throughout the Grand Rapids area and Iron Range up to three days a week. While he used his talent to spread joy to the many residents of the multiple congregate care facilities in the region over nearly two decades, one moment particularly stands out to me. On March 31st 2020, when Covid19 no longer allowed in person visits at nursing homes, he played alone with his accordion outside The Emeralds nursing home, moving from window to window playing for residents. I think if you have heard him play the piano you agree that his talent is tremendous, but if you consider the service he has made to the local nursing home community through music you will also agree that he is very deserving of this award.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kayla Warren