



Proclamation

VICTORIA CASEY-MCDONALD DAY FEBRUARY 26, 2023

WHEREAS, the Town of Sylva affirms the tireless efforts and the invaluable contributions of the late Victoria A. Casey-McDonald (1943-2014) as it honors her on the memorial date of her 80th birthday; and

WHEREAS, Victoria was a life-long resident of Jackson County born in 1943 to Estus and Derosette Casey in Peter's Bluff, an African American community of Cullowhee. Victoria was one of 10 siblings, including twin brother, Victor Casey and the mother of son Creighton O. Casey, daughter, Faustine McDonald and grandson Victor Crimmins; and

WHEREAS, classrooms, churches, libraries and communities throughout Western NC and several organizations and innumerable programs (such as the Annual Martin Luther King National Holiday celebration) have all benefited enormously from Victoria's leadership and participation; and

WHEREAS, she is the author of four published books which document the Black experience in Appalachia and her work (in all its forms) has gained recognition from Catch the Spirit of Appalachia, the Western Carolina University's Mountain Heritage Center and the Affrilachian Artist Project (just to name a few); and

WHEREAS, Victoria was a devoted educator, a pioneering champion for diversity, tenacious coach and advocate for area youth through her encouragement, and efforts to create opportunities in the arts, athletics and cultural enrichment; and

WHEREAS The North Carolina Literary Review has selected the 2022 reissue of Victoria's book Just Over the Hill: Black Appalachians in Jackson County, Western North Carolina to be featured as part of its archived lessons plans, making Victoria's work accessible to teachers and classrooms everywhere.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED, the Town of Sylva Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim February 26, 2023, Victoria Casey-McDonald Day as we encourage all citizens to recognize her contributions and vow to make our lives more creative, and fulfilling in the service of others.

ADOPTED the 23rd day of February, 2023.

Attest:

By:

Amanda W. Murajda, Town Clerk

David Nestler, Mayor