

**PROCLAMATION**  
**CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISM APPRECIATION**  
**ELORIA S. GILBERT**

**WHEREAS** In March of 1960 the Civil Rights Movement began in Savannah, GA. With the strong dedication of the NAACP Youth council, including students from Johnson High School, this movement led to the desegregation of public facilities; and

**WHEREAS** The Town of Thunderbolt would like to pay homage to the brave residents of Thunderbolt who played a part in this movement; and

**WHEREAS** Eloria S. Gilbert, married to Reverend Ralph Mark Gilbert, was the Postmistress at the Savannah State Post Office in Thunderbolt and headed up the NAACP in the area; and

**WHEREAS** Mrs. Gilbert established other NAACP's around the state where she was the field representative, lecturer and orator; and

**WHEREAS** Westley Wallace Law was the founder of the Civil Rights Museum and the Black Heritage Festival; and

**WHEREAS** the Museum is named for his mentor, Reverend Dr. Ralph Mark Gilbert, the 13<sup>th</sup> pastor of the First African Baptist Church.

**WHEREAS** Dr. Ralph Mark Gilbert is the "Modern father of Savannah's Civil Rights Movement"; and

**WHEREAS** Eloria Gilbert donated to the Museum the Gilbert Collection; and

**WHEREAS** after the death of her husband, Mrs. Gilbert maintained archive of Dr. Gilbert's writings and in 2020 gave these documents to the Museum; and

**WHEREAS** due to her support and dedication to the Civil Rights Movement, there is now the Eloria S. Gilbert Archive at the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Dana Williams, Mayor, and the members of the Thunderbolt Town Council due hereby recognize Eloria S. Gilbert for her dedication to the Civil Rights Movement on this day February 12, 2025.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have  
hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of  
Thunderbolt to be affixed this **12th day of**  
**February 2025**.

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Dana Williams, Mayor  
Town of Thunderbolt