

**TESTIMONIAL RESOLUTION HONORING *Eunice Stagger McArthur* -The  
Greatest Life Experience  
SUBMITTED BY COUNCILMEMBER FRED DURHAL**

**WHEREAS** Eunice Stagger McArthur was arrested during the Albany, GA Movement in July of 1962 for marching in support of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was on trial in Albany at the time. Eunice, along with other activists, gathered at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. The group decided to march to the courthouse, which was filled entirely with white individuals, and no Black citizens were permitted entry. The court had already handed down a verdict to imprison Dr. King; **and**

**WHEREAS** The group from Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church was arrested for their demonstration outside the courthouse. There were sixteen (16) people in the group, all of whom were taken to the city jail before being transferred to the federal prison in Carmela, GA. They were packed into a cell intended for only four people, with their mattresses removed, though it was unclear why the guards did this—likely to increase their discomfort. Eunice, who was pregnant at the time, was allowed to serve as the spokesperson for the group. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his staff, including a lawyer and Rev. Jesse Jackson, visited them in jail. Eunice was introduced to Dr. King, and they discussed their situation. Eunice remained in jail for sixteen days; **and**

**WHEREAS** Before the arrest, Eunice knew only one person in the group, Victoria Jones. After her release, the Albany Movement continued to hold meetings, and this was when Eunice had the opportunity to introduce her parents to Dr. King and Dr. William GilChrist Anderson, the president of the Albany Movement. On October 28, 1962, Eunice gave birth to her son, Martin GilChrist McArthur, naming him after both Dr. King and Dr. Anderson; **and**

**WHEREAS** While history books often suggest that the Albany, GA Movement was not a success, Eunice considers it an accomplishment. At the time, Albany had no Black police officers or bank tellers. The Movement led a boycott of the city buses, which caused a significant economic impact, especially during Christmas and Easter, as Black citizens shopped in surrounding cities instead of Albany. This boycott and the overall actions of the Movement contributed to the improvement of Albany, GA. This article is part of the collection at the Albany Civil Rights Museum in Georgia, written in 2002. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED** That Councilmember Fred Durhal III and members of the Detroit City Council proudly recognize and honor the contributions and unwavering dedication of ***MS. EUNICE STAGGER MCARTHUR*** for her role as an activist and her lasting legacy that continues to inspire and empower others to follow.

**MARCH 18, 2025 - TCB**