



West Georgia Regional Library System

Proclamation

Forty Years of Public Service

WHEREAS, the West Georgia Regional Library System brings literacy materials, technology access points and community networking opportunities of a personal and business nature to nearly half a million residents in its service area inclusive of Haralson, Heard, Paulding, Douglas and Carroll Counties; and

WHEREAS, the West Georgia Regional Library System was originally founded as the Carroll-Heard Regional Library and has operated since its inception headquartered in Carroll County within the City of Carrollton that dates back to 1944 and now, as an official member of the Georgia Public Library Service governed by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, does provide access to over 10 million circulation items of critical learning & leisure importance, is one of 61 library systems, its community adds to the nearly 4.3 million Georgians with active library cards and more than 70.2 million visits to libraries have transpired both in person and virtual in the Peach State; and

WHEREAS, any institutions success, prosperity and longevity are directly tied to its personnel that provide both the physical and mental components of its operations by which the Carroll County Board of Commissioners have financially supported for the direct benefit of the Carroll County community by funding assistance for staff, materials, technology and facility enhancements for our local libraries; and

WHEREAS, the National Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the average tenure inclusive of the median time considering wage and salary workers with their current employer is approximately 4.1 years; and

WHEREAS, employers seek more than just talent, skill set and adaptability from their personnel in today's market— they yearn for loyalty, institutional knowledge and unwavering commitment to their greater cause; and

WHEREAS, one such long serving employee of WGRLS not only meets the preceding notations but exceeds them in every aspect – Mrs. Denise Wood Blanford is more notably known as a Public Servant whose career in helping others spanned over four decades; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blanford is best known to her peers as a soft spoken yet inspirational leader, task doer, goal accomplisher, greeter of dignity and respect and a friend whose warm smile embraced all who have crossed her path both professionally and personally; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blanford instilled a heart of giving hard work, long hours and total dedication towards a career with WGRLS that witnessed many accolades of notoriety including the now retired transit “Book Mobile” which was credited for broadening access of learning materials to the rural poor who didn't have means of readily available transportation, the hiring of the first African American Public Library Director in the State of Georgia Mr. LeRoy Childs to the most recent facility updates of the renovated Neva Lomason Memorial Library and the newly constructed WGRLS Headquarters; and

WHEREAS, after an exemplary career that spanned over forty years, one of the longest serving tenures with a single system in WGRLS and GPLS history, Mrs. Blanford admirably retired in March of 2021 as a member of administrative management.

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of a multitude of life long accomplishments and in honor of an extraordinary career, the Carroll County Board of Commissioners does hereby congratulate and commend Mrs. Denise Wood Blanford on a well-earned retirement after forty years of public service to our community and do hereby proclaim her selfless commitment, loyalty, stellar work ethic and longevity through decades of service as an ambassador that represents all those who have preceded and are yet to come from dedicating their life long career to a single institution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I Michelle Morgan, Chairman along with District Representatives comprising the Carroll County Board of Commissioners, do hereby set our mark and affix the official Seal of Carroll County, Georgia to this Proclamation on this 4th Day of May, in the year of our Lord 2021.

Michelle Morgan, Chairman

George Chambers

Montrell McClendon

Tommy Lee

Clint Chance

Steve Fuller

Ernie Reynolds, Commissioner