

RESOLUTION FOR MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH McNEIL WAY

WHEREAS, Joseph A. McNeil was born and raised in Wilmington, North Carolina, and is a graduate of Williston High School; and

WHEREAS, Joseph A McNeil, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering physics from North Carolina A&T College (Now University) in Greensboro; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 1960, Joseph McNeil, David Richmond, Franklin McCain and Jibreel Khazan, began sitting at the F.W. Woolworth lunch counter in Greensboro and refused to leave until they were served; and

WHEREAS, these heroic freshmen from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University who became known as the Greensboro Four started the Student Sit-In Movement; and

WHEREAS, this act became the catalyst for a major social movement, and McNeil is credited widely with helping spur the Civil Rights Movement in North Carolina and beyond; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from North Carolina A&T, McNeil was commissioned as a second lieutenant through the university's ROTC program; and

WHEREAS, McNeil served in the United States Air Force until 1969 and earned the rank of Captain, and then continued to serve our country in the Air Force Reserves; and

WHEREAS, Major General Joseph McNeil has more than 6,600 flight hours, commanded 702nd Military Airlift Squadron and the 22nd Air Force; earned the Rank of Major General in 1996; and retired with more than 37 years of military service in 2000; and

WHEREAS, McNeil earned the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, James Smithson Bicentennial Medal from the Smithsonian Institution, and many additional civilian and military honors too numerous to list; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington City Council unanimously requests the North Carolina Department of Transportation to designate a portion of US 17 Business/US 421-Third Street as Major General Joseph McNeil Way.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The North Carolina Board of Transportation designates the portion of US 17 Bus/US 421-Third Street from Market Street to Willard Street in Wilmington as *Major General Joseph McNeil Way* to recognize his bravery to confront racial injustice, his service to our country, and his inspiration to us all to become a better nation, and a better community.

That appropriate signs will be erected at a suitable time.

Adopted this the 13th day of August 2020 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.


Chairman


Secretary of Transportation