

**IN RECOGNITION OF
RUFUS B. EASTER, JR.**

WHEREAS, Rufus B. Easter, Jr. has served this community with honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Rufus B. Easter, Jr. has been involved in many firsts: the first Public Relations Committee; the first Youth Commission; and the first \$100,000 Community Humanities Grant which was used to uncover more than 20,000 artifacts from Hampton's past; and

WHEREAS, in collaboration with Ralph Shelman, Principal, the late Emmet Scott, former Dean of the Virginia State School, and Dr. William Holloway, former Superintendent of the Virginia State School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-handicapped, Mr. Easter co-founded Insight Enterprises, the parent organization of the Peninsula Center for Independent Living (PENCIL); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Easter served as Chairman of the Peninsula Center for Independent Living, an organization devoted to enhancing the quality of life of persons with physical disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Rufus B. Easter, Jr. was cited by Governor George Allen and Mayor James Eason for leadership as President and Chairman of the local affiliate of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI/Hampton/Newport News) in programs designed to enhance the "quality of life" for mentally ill patients and by assisting them as Chief Associate in times of trouble with the Court System; and

WHEREAS, he served as a member of the Music, Arts, Drama and Science (MADS) Committee for the Hampton City Schools; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Easter was the Founder and Executive Director of the Hampton Association for the Arts and Humanities (HAAH), serving two terms, where the groundwork and operation of the American Theatre were formulated, giving longevity to the arts performance of the Hampton Humanities Center; and

WHEREAS, Rufus B. Easter, Jr. served as coordinator for the City of Hampton's Headquarters for the Bicentennial, for which the City accepted the HAAH proposal to name the park at Eaton and Queen Streets Mill Point Park; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Easter was a member of the Steering Committee for the Hampton History Museum and helped make the museum a reality for the local community, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission is a continuation of the HAAH Arts Division, and the Hampton History Museum is a continuation of the Humanities Division; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Easter has served on the Advisory Board of Eastern State Hospital, the Hampton Drug Court, the 375th Anniversary Committee, the 50th Anniversary of Consolidation Committee, Town and Gown, the All America City Committee and the Virginia Disabilities Board; and

WHEREAS, Rufus B. Easter, Jr. and his wife Evelyn are the parents of one daughter, Deborah, and three sons, Rufus B., III, Robert and Russell; and

WHEREAS, the Easters have been blessed with three grandchildren, Raymond, Ryan and Regina; and

WHEREAS, Rufus B. Easter, Jr. was honored by being selected as the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board 2007 Hall of Fame recipient;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ross A. Kearney, II, Mayor, on behalf of the City Council of the City of Hampton, Virginia, do hereby recognize the tireless effort and advocacy of Rufus B. Easter, Jr. on behalf of individuals and families affected by mental disabilities and his dedication to improve the quality of life for the community in countless ways.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Hampton, Virginia to be affixed, this Twentieth Day of June, Two Thousand and Seven.

Ross A. Kearney, II
Mayor