



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Dr. Edward DeWitt Sadler, Jr., former Superintendent of Gaston County Schools, lifelong educator, administrator, community and church leader, was called home to live with the Lord on Thursday, August 16, 2018, leaving a legacy of unwavering faithfulness and commitment to God, family, community and the education of our children; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sadler, an accomplished and visionary leader, dedicated almost four decades of service to public education: rising through the ranks of Gaston County Schools as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal, before serving 11 years as superintendent and retiring in 2006 as the first African-American to lead the County's school system, a system in which he was educated and that was segregated at the time of his graduation from Highland High School in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sadler received numerous honors for his contributions to education, the Gaston County community and to the state: in 2003, he was named the North Carolina State Superintendent of the Year. That same year he was named the Gaston Gazette Man of the Year and was recognized by the Charlotte Observer as one of the 10 most influential persons in the region. In 2004 he was appointed by Governor Michael Easley as an advisor to the North Carolina State Board of Education; received the coveted Harold Sumner Service Award for his outstanding contributions to the citizens of Gaston County and had the County's newest elementary school named in his honor. In 2006 he was also awarded one of the state's highest honors, induction into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine; and

WHEREAS, he also served in leadership and service roles in the community including: president of the Cancer Society, campaign chairperson of the United Way, member of the Gaston College Board of Trustees, and the Community Foundation, Gaston Literacy Council and Schiele Museum Boards; and

WHEREAS, he received his Bachelor's degree from North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC; a Master's degree in Education from UNC Charlotte, and Doctorate of Education and Educational Specialist degrees from UNC Chapel Hill and was conferred an honorary Doctor of Human Letters degree, by Belmont Abbey College; and

WHEREAS, he was a lifelong and faithful member of St. Stephens AME Zion Church where he served as Sunday School superintendent, member of the Men's Choir, the Cassell Singers, and served for 38 years as chairman of the Board of Trustees; and,

WHEREAS, he leaves behind his devoted wife of 49½ years, Thomasina, daughter Kelli, four grandchildren, a sister, two brothers, and a multitude of other family members, friends, and associates, and was preceded in death by his only son, Edward DeWitt (Trey) Sadler, III.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Walker E. Reid, III, Mayor of Gastonia, North Carolina, call on the citizens of this great city to join me this day, September 18, 2018, in expressing our deepest sympathy to Dr. Sadler's family, friends, and associates at the loss of this honored and beloved champion of public education and the Gaston County community and honoring his memory as a faithful servant of the Lord and his community.

Walker E. Reid, III, Mayor

Attest:

Sherry H. Dunaway, City Clerk