

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Resolution*

**RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROUEMONT RURITAN CLUB 2025**

**WHEREAS,** The Rougemont Ruritan Club, was first chartered in Durham County, North Carolina on November 28, 1950 as club #377 with 28 founding members and the original charter signed by Curtis Old, Ruritan National President and Tom Downing, Co-Founder of Ruritan National; and

**WHEREAS,** The Rougemont Ruritan Club has fostered Citizenship and Patriotism by posting U.S. Flags along the main highway on legal holidays, providing club members as volunteers to work at the polls during elections and encouraging all community citizens to exercise their right to vote; and

**WHEREAS,** The Rougemont Ruritan Club has provided Public Service to the members of the Rougemont Community such as preparing and providing an annual community calendar, building and maintaining a Little Free Library, publishing a free community newspaper, painting and refurbishing Ruritan highway signs, providing CPR courses for local Ruritan Club members and allowing the Ruritan Club building to be rented for community celebrations and needs; and

**WHEREAS,** The Rougemont Ruritan Club has improved the Environment by conducting community roadside trash pick-ups on a regular schedule under the state Adopt -A-Highway Program, built a community vegetable garden, hosted community clean up events and mowing assistance to disabled and elderly residents; and

**WHEREAS,** The Rougemont Ruritan Club has enriched Community Development, Education, and Wellness by hosting blood drives, sponsoring nutrition programs, a domestic violence awareness program, free fitness classes for adults at a local church fellowship hall and a Spanish class as a second language for adults. The Club has also provided fruit baskets to seniors living at a local Assisted Living Center, collected canned goods and funds at local businesses to support the local food bank and provided transportation for senior residents and others to medical appointments and made and distributed protective masks during the Covid pandemic; and

**WHEREAS,** The Rougemont Ruritan Club has supported Community Engagement and Opportunity by providing financial assistance for kids and chaperones to attend Ruritan National Summer Camp for Youth, holding and participating in golf tournaments for scholarship funds, donating funds to support the local fire department, assisting a local family who lost their home in a house fire, and sponsored adult softball teams. The Club has donated to the local homeless shelters, designed a community mural, organized neighborhood watch programs, annual youth Christmas events and Easter Festivals and Parades and raised funding through pancake and sausage breakfasts, Brunswick stew sales, spaghetti suppers, turkey shoot raffles and emergency mailbox markers; and

**WHEREAS,** The Rougemont Ruritan Club has distinguished itself with exceptional leadership at the local, regional, state and national level such that the Rougemont Ruritan Club is the only club in Ruritan National that has had two members- Millard Thacker and Linward Hedgspeth, to serve with distinction as President at both the state and national level, and such that Linward Hedgspeth is the first African American elected in the history of Ruritan National to serve as Ruritan National President; and

**WHEREAS,** Millard Thacker, member for more than 50 years, and Linward Hedgspeth, also long time member, have served in every Ruritan leadership level including Zone Governor, Lt. District Governor and Governor of the Rocky Mount- Durham Ruritan District, Vice President and President of the Association of North Carolina Ruritan and National Director, National Vice President and with Millard Thacker serving as the 2001-2002 National President and Linward Hedgspeth serving as the 2020-2022 National President.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that we the Durham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby resolve to recognize and celebrate the historic 75th Anniversary of the Rougemont Ruritan Club and hereby express deep appreciation and gratitude for the Rougemont Ruritan Club and all of its members for the numerous ways they have tirelessly, selflessly and generously uplifted and contributed to the community of Rougemont, Durham County and all of its people. May the Rougemont Ruritan Club continue to flourish and thrive for the betterment of all.

This the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025.

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Nida Allam, Chair

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Dr. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

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Michelle Burton, Commissioner

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Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

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Stephen Valentine, Commissioner

