

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRIPLE BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP | 2015

WHEREAS, racial segregation prevented optimum participation and interaction in the public schools of Durham County and other portions of the South; and

WHEREAS, the 1950s and the 1960s were glory days for boys and girls basketball at the three black high schools in Durham; Merrick-Moore, Little River, and Hillside spent multiple years playing in state championship games within the old North Carolina High School Athletic Conference; and

WHEREAS, the girls teams at these schools were outstanding; however, North Carolina state law prohibited girls championships on the state level until 1972; and

WHEREAS, the NCHSAC placed schools within four divisions (1-A, 2-A, 3-A, 4-A) based on student enrollment and held championships for those divisions; Little River competed in the 1-A Division, Merrick-Moore played in the 3-A division, and Hillside clashed with schools in the 4-A Division; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Little River won the state 1-A championship by defeating Laurel Hill Carver 82-56; the Busy Beavers repeated as state 1-A champs in 1964 by trouncing Mooresville Dunbar by a score of 70-48; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Merrick-Moore played for the state championship against Winston-Salem Paisley; the Tigers lost in a three-overtime thriller, 54-52; and

WHEREAS, in March of 1965 ... in Greensboro, all three of the black high schools in Durham won state championships. Little River "three-peated" as 1-A state champions by defeating West Southern Pines 83-66; Merrick-Moore won the 2-A state championship by beating Burlington Jordan-Sellers, 67-55 and the Hillside Hornets won the 4-A state championship with a come-from-behind overtime victory over West Charlotte 80-78; and

WHEREAS, the 2-A state championship was won by a Wake County school, Berry O'Kelly High, 84-76 over Kinston Woodington; thus, all four black high school boys championships were won by schools less than 25 miles apart; and

WHEREAS, Merrick-Moore played for the state championship in their division again in 1966, 1967, and 1969; Merrick-Moore won the state championship by beating Winston-Salem Anderson in 1967 and by beating Burlington Jordan-Sellers in 1969, Little River won the state championship in their division again in 1967 by beating Laurel Hill Carver and Hillside played for the state championship the next two years following their 1965 title; however, the Hornets lost to West Charlotte in 1966 and to Raleigh Ligon in 1967.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael D. Page, on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim March, 2015 as

"THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1965 TRIPPLE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS"

in Durham County, North Carolina and commend its observance to all citizens in recognition of the positive impact and the historical significance of these honors.

This the 9th day of March, 2015.

Michael D. Page, Chairman
Durham Board of County Commissioners

