

PROCLAMATION

HONORING VALAREESE HART

WHEREAS, Indian River County celebrates African American Pioneers who, through their service in the business, public, and elected arenas, have paved the way for this and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Valareese Young was born on March 3, 1933, in Arcadia, Florida, to the late Willie and Viola Young and moved to Gifford in 1945 after her parents' business closed during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Valareese was a proud graduate of Gifford High School, Class of 1954, later obtaining certifications as an early childhood educator and as a nursing assistant; and

WHEREAS, Valareese married Victor Hart, Sr., in 1956 and was a loving mother and grandmother to eleven children, twenty-three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Valareese was a force of social activism and servant leadership, a quiet woman who walked humbly, showed immeasurable compassion, and, in accordance with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision, gave of her time, talent, and treasure to advance the cause of civil rights for all; and

WHEREAS, Valareese served as a church musician and deaconess at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church for more than forty-two years, and as Conductress of the Eastern Order of the Eastern Star in Old Glory Chapter number 123; and

WHEREAS, Valareese was a charter member of the Vero Beach Senior High School Baccalaureate Committee; a member of the IRC Democratic Executive Committee and Democratic Women's Club; a committeewoman for Precinct 23; a member of the IRC NAACP; and a bedrock amongst the volunteers at Our Father's Table.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, that the pioneer spirit and civic contributions of Valareese Hart have greatly enriched Indian River County, the Treasure Coast, and the Gifford community she loved, and that the Board posthumously extends its sincere thanks for her untiring dedication to our citizens.

Adopted this 1st day of February, 2022.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Peter D. O'Bryan, Chairman

Joseph H. Earman, Vice Chairman

Susan Adams

Joseph E. Flescher

Laura Moss

