

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-3101**

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING MRS. FLORENCE KEMP  
FOR OVER 70 YEARS OF CULINARY EXCELLENCE AND SERVICE TO  
NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA CITY**

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Florence Kemp has dedicated an impressive 74 years of her life to the culinary arts, with over 70 years of service in the restaurant industry, providing her community with scratch-made soul food that nourishes both body and spirit; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 1952, at just 20 years old, Mrs. Kemp bravely opened the original Florence’s Restaurant at 916 NE Fourth St., overcoming the challenges of her time, including a lack of transportation, as her aunt would pick her up on the way to her job at the hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, despite facing significant adversity, including racially motivated obstacles in the 1950s that forced her to relocate her restaurant, Mrs. Kemp displayed resilience and determination, moving to her current location at 1437 NE 23rd St. during a time when restrictive covenants stated that individuals of her race could not own property; and

**WHEREAS**, under her stewardship, the restaurant became a cornerstone of the historically Black neighborhoods of Northeast Oklahoma City, drawing loyal patrons who recognized the warmth and hospitality she extended through her cooking; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of her extraordinary achievements, Mrs. Kemp was honored as Oklahoma’s very first James Beard Foundation Award winner in 2021, a testament to her culinary prowess and impact on the dining landscape; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we honor and celebrate Mrs. Florence Kemp for her resilience, dedication, and unwavering commitment to her craft and the Northeast Oklahoma City community over her remarkable 70 years of service.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be proclaimed in recognition of her 70 years of invaluable contributions and the lasting impact she has made on both her patrons the culinary world, and those in North East Oklahoma City.

**APPROVED** this 13th day of August 2025,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBER

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

MARESSA TREAT, COUNTY CLERK