



Memorial
Resolution
Honoring
Ruby Dee

Whereas Ruby Dee was known throughout her career as an accomplished actress, poet, playwright, journalist, and activist committed to building paths where there were none;

Whereas Ruby Dee was a fearless and devoted champion of civil rights, defending freedom through active participation and membership in the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference;

Whereas Ruby Dee wrote and spoke truth, unblemished, uncensored, essential, and eloquently to promote civil rights in artistic, legal, legislative, professional, and public arena;

Whereas Ruby Dee provided unfailing support, assistance, mentorship, and spiritual guidance to colleagues facing challenges to their civil liberties and freedom in their communities;

Whereas, by living her life to the fullest, Ruby Dee inspired women, especially Black women of the diaspora, to excel and accomplish in career and life;

Whereas Ruby Dee was a founding board member of the SonEdna Foundation, who from the beginning was passionate about our mission to celebrate and promote the literary arts and writers of all genres and backgrounds in the Delta, in Mississippi, and the world;

Whereas Ruby Dee was a prolific writer of many genres, from children's literature to audio books, generous forwards, to introductions and commentaries, including her role as columnist for the New York Amsterdam News and associate editor of Freedomways magazine;

Whereas as a poet and performer Ruby Dee received the Literary Guild Award in 1989 for Two Ways to Count to Ten;

Whereas Ruby Dee's transcendent body of work represents the values of the SonEdna Foundation: excellence and creativity; support of established and emerging voices; and celebration of the literary arts as essential to the articulation of ideas;

Whereas Ruby Dee's exemplified the wisdom, of elders and championed the ingenuity of youth;

Whereas Ruby Dee believed in the power of story, poetry of the people, and the transformative gift of language;

Whereas, in recognition of her legendary career Ruby Dee was awarded the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences' Grammy, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences' Emmy, Drama Desk, The Village Voice's Obie, Screen Actors Guild and Screen Actors Guild Lifetime Achievement Awards, as well as the President of the United States' National Medal of Arts and the Kennedy Center Honors;

Whereas, in recognition of her work as a civil rights activist, Ruby Dee received a Lifetime Achievement Freedom award by the National Civil Rights Museum; now, Therefore, be it

Resolved, the SonEdna Foundation of Mississippi thanks Ruby Dee, Founding Board Member and Advisory Board Chair Emeritus, for her gifts to the Foundation as friend and mentor; as a consummate artist and activist; and as a tireless fighter for freedom; and be it further



Resolved, that The SonEdna Foundation expresses its sincere sympathy to Ruby Dee's family, including her beloved children Guy Davis, Nora Davis, and Hasna Mohamed, founding board member SonEdna Foundation

To the forever Young, Gifted, and Black Gem of the Ocean, the one and only Ruby Dee. Ye-ye Ashe!

Adopted by the SonEdna Foundation Wednesday, August 14, 2014 In Charleston, MS