

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, FEBRUARY 18, 2023

Happy 100th Birthday Paul Woods

WHEREAS, *Paul Woods* was born February 20, 1923 in Bazemore, Alabama to Nora Fields Woods and Anderson Sherman Woods; and

WHEREAS, as a child, Paul walked ten miles to a one-room school to receive his education under an era of severe segregation amongst African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woods would go to proudly serve our nation in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Paul served 1941-1945 in the last Calvary Unit; and

WHEREAS, his Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was truck driver who drove ammunition to the front line in Australia; and

WHEREAS; Paul bestowed discipline, emphasized education and stated to his loved ones “When you’re sitting at the table of knowledge, eat hearty”; and

WHEREAS, as the years passed, Paul was blessed to have an amazing wife of 59 years, the late Mary T. Lucas Woods; 15 children, 28 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren and a “Super Great Great Grandad” to A’lani Malaysia Powell, born in 2022; and

WHEREAS, all of Mr. Woods’ children went to college and several attended graduate school and have master’s degrees; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Honor Flight honored Paul Woods and 30 other WWII veteran with a flight to see the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C; and

WHEREAS, in December 2017, Paul Woods returned to Australia where he served during and was honored by the U.S. Consulate General, Valerie Fowler; and

WHEREAS, on his 93rd birthday, American Legion Post #430 Jessie Clipper Post presented Paul Woods with the medals he earned in WWII which has long been lost or misplaced; and

WHEREAS, Paul and his late wife were licensed as Foster Care Providers through Randolph Child and Adolescent Services and they received many awards and were honored as Foster Parents of the Year in 1997 for their love and care to troubled youth; and

WHEREAS, Paul has also received well-deserved recognition for his service to his country from the Erie County Legislature, the City of Buffalo Mayor, the Village of Angola, and the Buffalo Common Council; and

WHEREAS, today, February 18, 2023, area veterans, community leaders and family members gather here to participate in a birthday caravan to honor Mr. Paul Woods, a 100-year-old World War II Veteran and the WWII Coordinator for the Jesse Clipper Post; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body celebrates *Paul Woods* who is idolized by many for the person he is, for serving in World War II, preserving through decades of segregation and racial injustice and for sharing his gifts with the community over his 100 years of life, spirit and joy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby honor *Paul Woods* on this occasion in celebrating his 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends and sincerely appreciates his love for life and devotion to Buffalo, Erie County and our nation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature wishes *Mr. Paul Woods* a very happy 100th birthday as well as health, love, happiness in all his years to come.

Hon. April N.M Baskin
Erie County Legislator, 2nd District