

Proclamation

Honoring The Life of Samuel E. "Sam" Robertson, Life-Long Clayton Resident

WHEREAS, On September 24, 1917, Battle Moore Robertson and Claudia Robertson welcomed their youngest child, Sam into the world in Clayton, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Sam grew up in Clayton graduating from Clayton High School, thereafter attending Randolph Macon Academy and Duke University; and

WHEREAS, Sam was drafted by the Army Air Force in 1943, and served during World War II as a ball turret gunner strapped in the belly of the B-17 Flying Fortress manning two, 50 caliber machine guns; and

WHEREAS, Sam flew 18 bombing missions over Germany and several humanitarian missions dropping food and supplies to civilians in the Netherlands; and

WHEREAS, On one occasion, Sam was stuck in the turret as a result of German flack, unable to exit the turret prior to landing, resulting in an aversion to seat belts and a physician's excuse from wearing a seat belt, which he carries with him while driving each day; and

WHEREAS, following the war, Sam returned home, joined the family business, B.M. Robertson Mule Company, where he still "works", married Elizabeth "Betsy" Avera, raised two fine children, Elizabeth R. "Betty" Goodwin and John William Robertson, and became an essential part of the fabric of the town of Clayton; and

WHEREAS, Sam, a life-long, loyal member of Horne Memorial Church, has lived a quiet daily life characterized by devotion to his faith, family, and friends, hard work, honesty, humility, and humor, influencing countless people by his life of service to our country and community, and is a living example of our State motto, "*Esse quam videri*", (To be, rather than to seem); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Clayton wishes to honor Sam Robertson on the occasion of his 100th birthday for his service to our country and the Town of Clayton by his example, and his indelible impact on the town and its Citizens, and the quality of life we enjoy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town of Clayton hereby honors Sam Robertson as a treasure to this community for his exemplary life well lived and its indelible impact on the Clayton community.

Duly adopted this the 5th day of September, 2017.



Jody McLeod
Mayor