



Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas:

Walter C. Potts was born on January 4, 1926, was married to Grace Ward on December 27, 1946, and was the father of 7 children, Gary, Donald, Michael, Elaine, Michele, Diane and Marcia; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Potts was a World War II veteran, having served as a Master Chief in the U.S. Navy, attended the Tuskegee Institute and graduated from Ohio Northern University; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Potts was the first Black Electrical Engineer at the Lima Refinery, and owned and operated his own electrical contracting business, Potts Electric, for many years; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Potts was a member of St. John's Catholic Church and involved with the Black Lay Catholics organization; further his community involvements included serving as a board member of the Better Business Bureau, member of the Lima Civil Service Board, Lifetime member of the NAACP, Board President of the Allen County Development Corporation, member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Board member of American Bank, elected at the 8th Ward City Councilman; and a 70-year member and later Executive Director of the Bradfield Center; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Potts was the first Black Member of the Elks Club, thus serving to break the color barrier in that organization and was later also a member of the Shawnee Country Club thus helping to racially integrate that organization as well; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Potts was the recipient of the Allen County Visionary Citizen Award, the Liberty Bell Award from the Allen County Bar Association, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Award from the Catholic Diocese of Toledo; in his honor the Walter C. Potts Entrepreneur Center was established; further, Lima City Council via Ordinance 141-15 officially acted to designate the Collett Street Bridge as the Walter C. Potts Memorial Bridge.

NOW THEREFORE:

I, David J. Berger, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio do hereby proclaim Sunday, November 22, 2015 as

WALTER C. POTTS MEMORIAL BRIDGE DAY

in the city of Lima in recognition of the life and service of Mr. Potts whose integrity and selflessness will continue to inspire others to similarly act to improve the Lima community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 18th day of November 2015.



Signature of David J. Berger, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio.