

A RESOLUTION OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY BRANCH OF THE
NAACP HONORING MRS. HELEN RUCKER, PAST PRESIDENT,
COMMUNITY LEADER, AND LIFELONG CHAMPION OF CIVIL RIGHTS
AND EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Mrs. Helen Rucker has dedicated her life to advancing civil rights, educational equity, civic engagement, and community empowerment on the Monterey Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rucker faithfully served as Past President of the Monterey County Branch of the NAACP, providing principled leadership grounded in integrity, courage, and an unwavering commitment to justice; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rucker's distinguished career as a teacher, librarian, and educator shaped generations of young people, while her service as a Seaside City Council member and Monterey Peninsula Unified School District board member strengthened the civic and educational landscape of the region; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rucker has been a tireless advocate for prison education, HIV/AIDS prevention, Black entrepreneurship, mental health access, senior support services, police reform, affordable housing, and voter education, demonstrating a comprehensive and compassionate approach to community uplift; and

WHEREAS, as the founder of the Seaside Voter Education Center, she ensured that thousands of residents—especially young people of color—had access to accurate, nonpartisan election information, empowering generations to exercise their fundamental right to vote; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rucker has been recognized locally and statewide for her extraordinary service, including being honored as the 2015 Woman of the Year for California's 29th Assembly District; receiving the NAACP Medgar Evers Freedom Legacy Award in 2017; and being selected as California State University at Monterey Bay's Community Woman of Distinction in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rucker has been a loyal supporter and donor to California State University, Monterey Bay since 1999, and is the namesake of the Helen Rucker Center for Black Excellence, reflecting her enduring impact on higher education and community empowerment; and

WHEREAS, she has also been blessed to receive numerous accolades while living—an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from CSUMB, a star on Seaside’s Walk of Fame, and the naming of various community institutions in her honor—powerful acknowledgments of a life of purpose, vision, and service; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rucker’s legacy is one of intellect, bravery, compassion, and unwavering dedication to civil and human rights, leaving an immeasurable impact on Monterey County and beyond;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monterey County Branch of the NAACP expresses its profound respect, gratitude, and admiration for Mrs. Helen Rucker, honoring her lifelong commitment to justice, education, and community advocacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be entered into the official record of the Monterey County Branch of the NAACP and shared with Mrs. Rucker, her family, and the community as a testament to her remarkable leadership and enduring legacy; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Monterey County Branch of the NAACP encourages friends, colleagues, and admirers of Mrs. Rucker to share their stories, tributes, and photographs in celebration of her life, so that she may receive the joy, love, and affirmation she so richly deserves.

Adopted by the Monterey County Branch NAACP

Date: _____