



Proclamation

By the Mayor of Prattville, Alabama

WHEREAS, Mary Virginia Lee-Harris was born on a rural Autauga County farm and spent her youngest years during the Great Depression, grew to adulthood during a time when segregation was the accepted social norm and a formal education was little more than a dream for most people of color; and

WHEREAS, Mary Virginia overcame both these obstacles by completing the required courses at Smith School and North Highland School, both all-black educational facilities, then studied courses required to obtain a document that was unheard of for blacks in Autauga County at the time - a license to practice nursing; and

WHEREAS, She received state certification and became a licensed practical nurse in 1967, a time when integration was spreading throughout the South. She was the first Autauga County person of color to be granted such certification, and one of the first six nurses - white or black - at Prattville General Hospital to receive their caps and pins as LPNs; and

WHEREAS, Mary Virginia Harris is always remembered by her work ethic, her personality and the care and respect she shows for everyone with whom she comes into contact. She is special to the Mayor's Office and treats us like her own; and

WHEREAS, In the words of former Council President Willie Wood, Mrs. Mary Virginia is "very humble, a beautiful spirit." We agree and thank the Lord for placing Mary Virginia in our paths and in our lives!

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Gillespie, Jr., Mayor, do hereby PROCLAIM Friday, June 9th, 2017, as

MARY VIRGINIA LEE-HARRIS DAY

on the occasion of her 80th birthday in Prattville, Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Seal of the City of
Prattville on the 9th day of June 2017.

Bill Gillespie Jr.

Mayor Bill Gillespie Jr.