

# Town of Fairfield, Connecticut

## Proclamation

- WHEREAS:** The Town of Fairfield proudly honors Gwendolyn Ward, a Fairfield born-and-raised resident, on her incredible 100<sup>th</sup> birthday; and
- WHEREAS:** Gwen was born on August 9, 1923 in her home in Fairfield where she has lived her entire life. Gwen's family history dates back to the Civil War when her great-grandparents came to Fairfield and were only one of four African- American families living in our community at that time; and
- WHEREAS:** Not only is Gwen an important part of the Fairfield community, but she has also been a trailblazer for others when she rose to the level of becoming the first African-American group leader when she worked at GE for 45 years; and
- WHEREAS:** Gwen's love, devotion and kindness in always wanting to help others, especially children and young adults and those in need from her Church, is admirable and a great lesson in what all people should strive to do; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2018, Gwen received the Black History Month Pioneer Award. As one of Fairfield County's African-American pioneers, Gwen has kept her family's history alive, helped open doors at the workplace and become a positive role model for young people; and
- WHEREAS:** Four years ago, Gwen's donated a large collection of family photographs to the Fairfield Museum and History Center. The images stretch back four generations and include Gwen's ancestor Edward Randolph who was born into slavery and moved to Fairfield in the 1870s; and
- WHEREAS:** In April 2022, the Museum opened an exhibit celebrating the Randolph and Ward families and their relatives in Fairfield. The exhibit shows the history of Gwen's family and the power of photography in telling the remarkable story of a multi-generational African-American family.
- WHEREAS:** Gwen is one of 6 children with 2 sisters and three brothers and was married to the late Thomas Jones. She was a part of the organization called Project Concern held at messiah Baptist Church for over 20 years.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Brenda L. Kupchick, First Selectwoman of the Town of Fairfield, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, August 8, 2023 as

### ***GWENDOLYN WARD DAY***

in the Town of Fairfield and encourage all citizens to wish Gwen a very happy and healthy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and show their appreciation and thanks to Gwen and her family who the Town is very proud of having as members of the Fairfield community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Town of Fairfield to hereby be affixed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023.

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**Brenda L. Kupchick**  
**First Selectwoman**