



PROCLAMATION

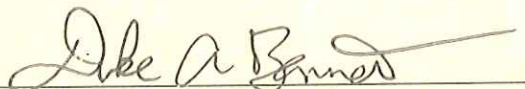
- WHEREAS: Willa Beatrice Brown was born in Glasgow, Kentucky in 1906 to Eric and Hallie Brown and the family moved to Terre Haute, IN c.1918 seeking better opportunities; and
- WHEREAS: Willa Beatrice Brown, was an aviatrix, activist, lobbyist, mechanic, pioneer, politician and visionary; and
- WHEREAS: Ms. Brown was a woman of firsts: the first African American woman to earn a private pilot's license, a commercial pilot's license and an aircraft mechanic's license in the United States; and
- WHEREAS: she was also the first African American female officer (lieutenant) and coordinator in the Chicago Branch of the U.S. Civil Air Patrol, coordinator of two Civil Aeronautics Administration Programs, and first to co-own and operate a private Black flight academy; and
- WHEREAS: in the 1940s and 1950s, this maverick was the first African American woman to run for the United States Congress; she ran 3 times; and
- WHEREAS: she was educated in the schools of Terre Haute, Indiana (Sarah Scott and Wiley High School), then graduated with a teaching license from Indiana State Normal School in 1927; and
- WHEREAS: this accomplishment launched her destiny as a lifelong educator who mentored a wide range of individuals, regardless of race or creed, including the renowned Tuskegee Airmen; and
- WHEREAS: the City of Terre Haute and the Terre Haute Regional Airport salute Willa Beatrice Brown, a singular hometown heroine and a national treasure.

NOW, THEREFORE: I, Duke A Bennett, Mayor of the City of Terre Haute, do hereby proclaim March 25, 2022 as

WILLA BEATRICE BROWN DAY

in Terre Haute, Indiana and ask all citizens to join me in honoring this remarkable woman of "firsts".

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused
the Great Seal of the City of Terre Haute to be affixed this
25th day of March, 2022.



Duke A Bennett, Mayor

