

RESOLUTION 2003 - 47

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND HONORING MAVYNEE BETSCH.

WHEREAS, MaVynee Betsch is truly a treasure and an "Ambassador" to the world for Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, MaVynee Betsch attended and graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio with a double major in voice and piano, and then went to Europe, for fifteen (15) years, where she was an opera singer, performing in such operas as "Madame Butterfly" and "Carmen"; and

WHEREAS, Mavynee Betsch, widely known as the "Beach Lady", retired and returned to American Beach in the 1970's, where she donated all her savings to environmental causes from land preservation to saving butterflies, and began living a simpler lifestyle, house-sitting for American Beach friends and giving to others in the community; and

WHEREAS, MaVynee Betsch, the great-granddaughter of American Beach founder, A.L. Lewis, is the unofficial archivist of anything that has ever been written about American Beach; and

WHEREAS, MaVynee Betsch has, for six (6) years, lectured on Black History and the history of American Beach and conducted tours of American Beach; and

WHEREAS, MaVynee Betsch has been featured in national publications, such as *Ebony*, *Essence*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Miami Herald*, *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, *National Geographic*, and *New York Times*; and

WHEREAS, MaVynee Betsch has appeared on such national networks as CNN, ABC, CBS and PBS, which featured stories of American Beach and herself as the historian and soul of American Beach; and

WHEREAS, several books have been written about American Beach in which MaVynee Betsch has been prominently featured, including Russ Rymer's book entitled "American Beach: A Saga of Race Breath and Memory"; and

WHEREAS, she was one of the moving forces behind American Beach's recent designation on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, because of her energy and dedication, Nassau County has recently approved spending funds to build a multi-purpose County facility that will, as one of its uses, make a reality of MaVynee Betsch's dream to create an African-American Museum for American Beach covering sixty (60) years of history from American Beach's inception, to

its heyday in the mid 1900's, through its revitalization in the 1990's; and

WHEREAS, all of the citizens of Nassau County are indebted to MaVynee Betsch for her spirit and dedication to the environment and devotion to her community of American Beach and the County as a whole.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this 24th day of February, 2003, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, that:


1. MaVynee Betsch is hereby honored and commended for her integrity, energy, and dedication on behalf of American Beach.

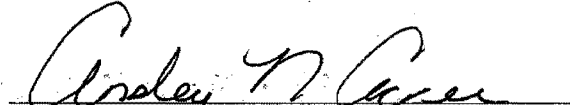
2. For her tenacity in insuring that the character of American Beach is preserved and maintained for future generations.

3. MaVynee Betsch is further honored for her concern for the environment and her true love of the citizens of Nassau County as she strives to make Nassau County a better place for all the citizens.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA


VICKIE SAMUS
Its: Chairman


NICK D. DEONAS


ANSLEY ACREE


MARIANNE MARSHALL


FLOYD VANZANT

ATTEST:


J. M. "CHIP" OXLEY, JR.
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney


MICHAEL S. MULLIN

h/anne/res/betsch-res