

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Dr. LeRoy Patrick is being honored posthumously with the Spirit of King Award; this award recognizes the lifetime achievements of local citizens who pursue human rights and equality in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

**WHEREAS**, born in Charleston, South Carolina, Rev. Dr. Patrick was the youngest of three sons; His oldest brother died of tuberculosis, and his other brother was killed by a white youth, but the case was never investigated which led to Rev. Dr. Patrick's interest in civil rights; Graduating from Lincoln University in 1939, Rev. Dr. Patrick felt a calling to become a minister and earned his Master's Degrees in Divinity and Sacred Theology from Union Theological Seminary in New York City; and

**WHEREAS**, Rev. Dr. Patrick became a central figure in the movement against racism in Pittsburgh in the 1950s and 60s; he fought to integrate public swimming pools, and championed equal opportunity in education, employment, and housing; he also served the public in various roles, including as president of the Pittsburgh Public School Board, chairman of the Allegheny County Council on Civil Rights and the Allegheny County Committee for Fair Housing Practices, the Pittsburgh NAACP, and the PA Historical and Museum Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, Rev. Dr. Patrick's work has been praised extensively and those who knew him valued his leadership and friendship; he was one of the first black ministers to serve as moderator of the 226-church Presbytery and for more than 30 years led Bethesda Center, a social service mission supported by the church as an outreach to Homenood; and

**WHEREAS**, Allegheny County is honored to have had Rev. Dr. Patrick as a resident, leader, and inspiration to many for his dedication to civil rights activism in our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby recognize Rev. Dr. LeRoy Patrick as the Spirit of King Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2014.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

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