

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble (NCYTE, pronounced “insight”) was founded in the Town of Chapel Hill by Gene Medler in 1983; and

WHEREAS, NCYTE provides opportunities for tap dancers aged 8-18 to practice their craft, perform, travel, build leadership skills, educate, be mentored, and create art; and

WHEREAS, NCYTE strives to honor and respect the history and traditions of percussive dance forms by educating audiences about the history of tap dance through performance and commentary; and

WHEREAS, NCYTE builds and advances tap dance’s established history and traditions, infusing it with youthful energy, contemporary music, and innovative choreography; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his professional contributions including the mentorship of multiple generations of tap dancers in Chapel Hill and beyond, NCYTE’s Founder and Director Emeritus Gene Medler received the JUBA! Award in 2010, considered by many to be the “Academy Award of the rhythm tap world;” and

WHEREAS, in the last 40 years, NCYTE has toured throughout the U.S. and the world, performing in Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, and Mexico, earning a well-deserved reputation as one of the world’s most outstanding youth rhythm tap ensembles; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing opportunities for local dancers, NCYTE hosts the North Carolina Rhythm Tap Festival (NCRTF) each June in Chapel Hill, inviting world-renowned tap instructors and dancers from across the world to experience our community; and

WHEREAS, May 25 was declared “National Tap Dance Day” in 1989 by former President George H.W. Bush, commemorating the life and contributions of Bill “Bojangles” Robinson.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Chapel Hill commends the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble (NCYTE) on its 40th anniversary and declares May 25, 2023 to be

National Tap Dance Day

in Chapel Hill and encourages town residents to help celebrate this important milestone by learning about the history and traditions of percussive dance forms including rhythm tap dance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in honor of his outstanding contributions to the practice and traditions of rhythm tap dance and to the Town of Chapel Hill hereby proclaim

Gene Medler Day

in Chapel Hill and encourage everyone to express their appreciation for his legacy of teaching, mentorship and artistry that have positively impacted thousands of people in our community and beyond.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL, ON THIS THE TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF MAY IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE.



Sam Hemm