

*Northwest African American Museum
Celebrates the Life and Legacy of Pastor Patrinell Wright*

RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS, Pastor Patrinell “Pat” Wright was born in Carthage, Texas in 1944 to a Baptist preacher father, Alton B. Staten Sr. and a schoolteacher mother, Haru Butler Staten, and
- WHEREAS, One of eight siblings, Patrinell was introduced to music early, and graduated valedictorian of her high school class, going on to attend college at Prairie View A & M, and
- WHEREAS, In 1964, Patrinell moved to Seattle, married the Rev. Benny Wright in 1965, and worked in various roles including as a gospel radio DJ, a newspaper religion editor, and a pastor, and
- WHEREAS, On October 1, 1970, Patrinell sang at the funeral for internationally famous musician and rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix at Seattle’s Dunlap Baptist Church, and
- WHEREAS, Also in 1970, Patrinell was hired by the Seattle School District to lead the Franklin High School Gospel Choir and the Black Experience Gospel Choir at Roosevelt High School, and
- WHEREAS, Some of the artists with whom Patrinell performed include the Winans, the Judds, the Hawkins Family, James Cleveland, Steely Dan, Quincy Jones, Heart, and Ray Charles, and
- WHEREAS, In 1973, Patrinell founded the award-winning Total Experience Gospel Choir and led it for decades until she retired it in 2018, performing in over 38 states and 28 countries, and
- WHEREAS, Patrinell and the Total Experience Gospel Choir dedicated countless hours supporting many good causes over the years, both local and far-reaching, from raising money to fight sickle cell anemia to assisting victims of Hurricane Katrina, and
- WHEREAS, Crowned by *The Seattle Times* as “Seattle’s First Lady of Gospel”, Patrinell’s life was dedicated to helping others, receiving prestigious accolades including the 2002 Seafair Queen, the Washington State Governors Ethnic Heritage Award, the Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award, the Urban League’s Edwin T. Pratt Award, the Seattle Center’s 2005 Living Legend Award, and gold and silver medals in Australia as well as Korea, and
- WHEREAS, Patrinell’s musical genius influenced the founding of the Northwest African American Museum’s African American Cultural Ensemble (ACE) since so many ACE vocalists and musicians learned music years ago under Patrinell’s tutelage, and NAAM’s 2021 Youth Curators paid tribute to Patrinell, selecting her as one of four arts leaders featured in the Emmy-nominated animation “Washington State’s Black Women of the Arts”,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors, staff, and members of the Northwest African American Museum (NAAM) and ACE celebrate the life and cherish the legacy of Pastor Patrinell “Pat” Staten Wright. We sing praises to her legacy of love. We celebrate the ways she centered Black heritage through her music and exemplary singing voice. May her generous spirit rest in peace. May her light always shine upon NAAM, the African American Cultural Ensemble, the Seattle community, and the Pacific Northwest.

Adopted on this 10th day of September, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,



LaNesha DeBardelaben

President & CEO, Northwest African American Museum



Northwest
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Museum