



*Maxine Herring Parker* ('16) WAS A THREE-TERM BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCILOR WHO WAS A CHAMPION FOR HER DISTRICT AND USHERED IN CHANGES THAT WOULD LEAD TO SAFER PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC IN THE HEAVY INDUSTRIAL AREAS OF DISTRICT 4 IN NORTH BIRMINGHAM.

ON NOVEMBER 12, 2013 PARKER DIED AT THE AGE OF 69, WHILE SERVING IN OFFICE. HER SON, WILLIAM PARKER HAS CONTINUED HER LEGACY, SERVING AS THE COUNCILOR FOR DISTRICT 4 SINCE BEING APPOINTED IN 2013. HE WAS RECENTLY REELECTED TO HIS SEAT.

AS A RESULT OF THE INDUSTRIAL TRAFFIC THAT CUTS THROUGH THE DISTRICT, MAXINE PARKER HELPED LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AS A WAY FOR HER CONSTITUENTS, BOTH IN CARS AND ON FOOT, TO MOVE AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF COLLEGEVILLE AND AVOID SOME OF THE CONGESTION CAUSED BY TRAINS. THE RAILROAD TRACKS LOCATED ON FRED L. SHUTTLESWORTH DRIVE HAD LONG POSED A THREAT TO PEDESTRIANS AND PARKER MADE IT HER MISSION TO ALLEVIATE SOME OF THOSE DANGERS.

FOR NEARLY A DECADE, PARKER WORKED TIRELESSLY TO BRING A SOLUTION INTO FRUITION WHILE WORKING ON THE COUNCIL FOR HER DISTRICT. IN 2009, PARKER GAVE THEN-GOVERNOR BOB RILEY A TOUR OF THE AREA THAT WAS BEING NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY THE TRAFFIC. SHE EVEN WENT TO WASHINGTON D.C. IN ORDER TO SECURE FUNDING FOR THE BRIDGE THAT WAS FINALLY OPENED ON JUNE 14, 2017, NEARLY TWO YEARS AFTER THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY THAT MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT BEING BUILT.

THIS BRIDGE AND THIS ACCESS ROAD WILL ABSOLUTELY BE A BLESSING TO EVERYONE THAT ENTERS AND DEPARTS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF COLLEGEVILLE," GOVERNOR KAY IVEY SAID DURING THE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY OF THE MAXINE HERRING PARKER BRIDGE. "I WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE CHAMPION FOR THIS PROJECT, THE LATE MAXINE PARKER. SHE WAS CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND A FIERCE SUPPORTER OF THE LITTLE COMMUNITY OF COLLEGEVILLE. IT'S BEEN SAID SOMETIMES THE BEST MAN FOR A JOB IS A WOMAN...AND MAXINE WAS THAT CHAMPION."

ALONG WITH SERVING AS THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, PARKER ALSO WORKED AS AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT OF TALLADEGA COLLEGE FOR 41 YEARS, SPANNING THE TERMS OF SIX DIFFERENT PRESIDENTS.

PARKER IS WIDELY REMEMBERED AS A PUBLIC SERVANT WHO SPENT HER LIFE WORKING TIRELESSLY FOR THOSE WHO ELECTED HER INTO OFFICE. COUNCILOR SHEILA TYSON CHARACTERIZED THE LATE-COUNCIL PRESIDENT AS SOMEONE WHO, "ALWAYS PERSONIFIED CLASS, GRACE, AND A QUIET STRENGTH. SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO SPEAK LOUDLY, BECAUSE HER ACTIONS DID THE TALKING FOR HER."

ONE OF HER MANY SAYINGS WAS "*STAY FOCUSED.*"