

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR / CITY OF DALLAS



Proclamation

WHEREAS, The City of Dallas is privileged to honor the life and legacy of Charlene Jenkins “CJ” Bostic, an extraordinary woman recognized as the first Black flight attendant employed at Southwest Airlines; Throughout her phenomenal career, she displayed the highest degree of professionalism and care to everyone she met; She was known for her warmth, her compassion, and her spirit of positivity, making a lasting impression to thousands of fellow flight attendants and customers alike; We wish to offer our deepest condolences to the family of CJ Bostic, who departed from this life on January 10, 2022; and

WHEREAS, CJ Bostic was born on April 12, 1948 in Lockhart, Texas to Shedrick Jenkins and Mercille Connie Jenkins; After graduating from high school and college in New Jersey, she relocated to Dallas, Texas; She then began working as a model for clients such as Neiman Marcus and Rothschild’s; and

WHEREAS, In 1972, CJ Bostic was hired by Southwest Airlines during the company’s first year of operations and joined its third class of flight attendants; As the first Black flight attendant, she endured racist comments and incidents from passengers; However, it should be stated that Bostic remained strong and resilient and, true to form, continued to demonstrate kindness to all people; and

WHEREAS, CJ Bostic’s exemplary track record of leadership and dedication at Southwest Airlines remains unmatched, and represents one of the reasons why she was trusted and called upon to participate in several significant marketing campaigns for the company; Her contributions were also recognized with numerous awards, such as:

- 1981 Founders Award
- 2005 Flight Attendant of the Quarter
- 2006 Founders Award
- 2012 Flight Attendant of the Month
- 2015 Outstanding Crew Award
- 2016 Customer Service Award

WHEREAS, Since CJ Bostic passed, many of her dear colleagues and friends have begun to share beautiful stories recounting her legacy of generosity; She, for example, was designated with the honor of Godmother for numerous children of friends; She was also remembered for her gift of “CJ bracelets” – jewelry, featuring a heart, that would be given to over 150 individuals to thank them for their friendship or for their efforts at work; Most people reminisce how Bostic made them feel like she was their equal, never above but always working alongside them, encouraging them to have faith and love for one another; and

WHEREAS, CJ Bostic’s generosity extended to supporting a number of notable charities in our community, including Feed The Children, Heifer International, Mercy Ships, and Doctors Without Borders; And, understanding how much Bostic gave to others, her family invites the public to support the newly created CJ Bostic Memorial Scholarship Fund to benefit future nursing students at Collin College in Plano, Texas; and

WHEREAS, During a nearly 50-year long career with Southwest Airlines, CJ Bostic served as a friend, confidant, and mentor to many of her colleagues; She stands out as an icon and model flight attendant whose enthusiasm for flying and for Southwest Airlines never wavered; The loved ones of CJ Bostic will continue to hold on to and treasure the precious memories of their time together, and the City of Dallas joins in celebrating her many contributions to our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ERIC JOHNSON, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DALLAS, do hereby proclaim Friday, February 11, 2022 as

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CJ BOSTIC DAY

in Dallas, Texas.

Mayor, The City of Dallas

