

STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT

By The Honorable **Laura R. Hoydick**, Mayor: a

PROCLAMATION

IN RECOGNITION OF LILLIE DEVEREUX BLAKE

- WHEREAS,** Lillie Devereux Blake, born in Raleigh, North Carolina, on August 12, 1833, was a fiction writer, journalist, essayist, suffragist and reformer who published seven novels, two collections of stories and essays, and hundreds of other pieces during her lifetime; and she played a major role in the struggle for women's rights; and
- WHEREAS,** Lillie Devereux Blake's great grandfather was the Honorable William Samuel Johnson, who was a lawyer, member of the Continental Congress, delegate to the Constitutional Convention, signer of the Constitution, and U.S. Senator; and Lillie spent summers as a child at the William Samuel Johnson House on Main Street; and her mother built a house on a portion of the Johnson property in 1856 known as Elm Cottage (formerly the Golden Rooster Consignment Shop); and Lillie was confirmed at Christ Episcopal Church before her marriage in 1855; and
- WHEREAS,** Lillie Devereux Blake, having grown up in both Stratford and New Haven, Connecticut, is one our Town's prominent figures who was well known and highly respected in nineteenth century America as a writer and an ardent advocate of women's suffrage: she served as president of both the New York State Woman Suffrage Association (1879 – 1890) and the New York City Woman Suffrage League (1886 – 1900); and she was active in the National American Woman Suffrage Association, where she was a candidate to succeed Susan B. Anthony as president; and
- WHEREAS,** during her career in New York, Lillie Devereux Blake played a critical role in the movement for women's suffrage by pushing for legislation to change discriminatory laws; and she was successful in helping women to gain more rights, including: pensions for Civil War nurses; eligibility for civil service positions; joint guardianship of children, and the vote for women in school elections; and
- WHEREAS,** the Town of Stratford joins the nation this year in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and women's constitutional right to vote; and in celebration of this historic and important milestone and the courageous suffragists who never gave up the fight for equality, the Town wishes to remember and honor Lillie Devereux Blake (1833 – 1913).

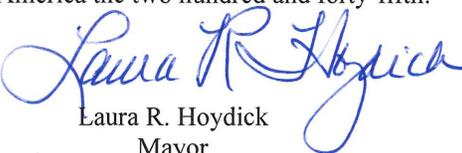
NOW, THEREFORE, I, the Honorable Laura R. Hoydick, Mayor of Stratford, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Town, do hereby proclaim August 12, 2020, as

LILLIE DEVEREUX BLAKE DAY

in the Town of Stratford, Connecticut; and hereby encourage all residents to join me in celebration of this special occasion.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of the Town of Stratford, this twelfth day of August, in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.


Laura R. Hoydick
Mayor