



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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Tuskegee Airman Dabney N. Montgomery Street Co-Naming Resolution

WHEREAS: Dabney N. Montgomery was born in Selma, Alabama on April 18th, 1923, to Dred and Lula Anderson Montgomery. His early childhood education began at the Alabama Lutheran Academy serving first through seventh graders; when Dabney graduated he was promoted to ninth grade at Selma University High School. After graduating high school he continued to Selma University for one year before being drafted into the Army Air Corps (now United States Air Force), during World War II, and served in the 1051st Quartermaster Company of the 96th Air Service Group attached to the 332nd Air Fighter Group, as a ground crewman with the Tuskegee Airman in Southern Italy, from 1943 to 1945. In 1946, he enrolled into Livingstone College, Salisbury, North Carolina and received a B.A. in Religious Education in May 1949. He was a charter member of the Sphinx Club, one of the first to be admitted into the Gamma Mu Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and a lifetime member of the Alpha Gamma Lamda Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

WHEREAS: In June 1955, Montgomery joined Mother African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; (organized 1796 in New York) served as Sunday school teacher in the junior department and was appointed Director of Youth in 1970 and held that post until 1999. In July 1996, he authored a resolution to the General Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church Denomination, proposing “The Day of Pentecost” be incorporated in the A.M.E. Zion Church Book of Discipline. It now stands as a day of celebration throughout all A.M.E. Zion churches.

WHEREAS: Montgomery served as General Chairperson of Mother Zion’s Bicentennial Anniversary in 1996, charter member of 159 West 136th Street Parsonage Building Fund of Mother Zion, Life member, the Missionary Society, member/Chaplin of Class no. 4, member, Board of Stewards, member Boards of Directors of James Varick Community Center and member/Chaplin of the Lay Council. He was Mother Zion’s church Historian and conducted church tours. In 1999, Mother Zion, featured in a PBS documentary entitled “A Walk through Harlem” where Mr. Montgomery cited the history of Mother Zion Church. In March of 1955 the Men’s committee honored Montgomery with the Paul Robeson Award of Excellence and architectural plans for the future structure of the Church archives and museum to be named the Dabney N. Montgomery Art Gallery and Exhibition Hall.

WHEREAS: Mr. Montgomery was employed in the late 1950’s by New York’s Department of Social Services as a caseworker and in 1972 was hired by the NYC Housing Authority where he remained employed until 1989.

WHEREAS: Dabney Montgomery was active during the Civil Rights Movement, march with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the march from Selma to Montgomery Alabama in 1965 and served as one of Dr. Kings bodyguards. Mr. Montgomery removed the heels of the shoes he

wore in the March and preserved them in a wooden shadowbox along with his necktie he wore and his address book containing Dr. King's Atlanta address. The Montgomery's gifted the shadowbox to the National Museum of African American History and Culture of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. where it is in the permanent collection and exhibition of the Civil Rights Movement.

WHEREAS: In April 2006, President George W. Bush signed a bill into law to award "all" documented original Tuskegee Airmen the "United States Congressional Medal of Honor". In December 2006 Mr. Montgomery received the Prestigious Outstanding Alumni Award from Livingston College National Alumni Association presented by the National Alumni Council of United Negro College Fund of Nashville, Tennessee. In 2010 he was inducted into the United Negro College Fund "Share Your Love and Service in Celebration of Livingston College Leader's" Hall of Fame. These distinctive awards are given to those who have made significant contributions to their Alma Mata, community and the UNCF. In August of 2007, Montgomery was asked to serve as a contributing member of "The History Makers" an organization housing the largest archival collection of both well-known and unsung African American History Makers. In June of 2014 The Library of Congress acquired this documentation as permanent repository of "The History Makers". In 2009 Livingston College National Alumni Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island Chapter presented Mr. Montgomery with the Joseph Charles Price Award.

WHEREAS: Mr. Montgomery was involved in the Harlem community and a member of Community Board 10, where he served on sub-committees Parks and Recreation and the Executive Committee. Montgomery wrote a letter to Parks Department of the City of New York proposing to recognize Central Park West at 85th and 86th Street as the Historical site of African American settlers in the early 1820's, known at that time as Seneca Village. Mother A.M.E. Zion church at one point was located at this site. In 1857, the settlers were evicted under the city's eminent domain project. A permanent sign now stands marking the site.

WHEREAS: Mr. Montgomery received numerous awards for his incredible dedication, involvement and love for his community. Mr. Montgomery received proclamations from Manhattan Borough Presidents C. Virginia Fields and Scott Stringer. The National Action Network bestowed the Social Action Award to Mr. Montgomery for his Civil Rights activism. In June of 2009 Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney of New York declared him an "American Hero" and later that month the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Union Local 237; President Floyd presented Montgomery with their Trailblazer award, a declaration of honor acknowledging Saturday January 28th, 2012 as "Dabney N. Montgomery Day", in Queens presented by the late Helen M. Marshall, Queens borough president. Mr. Montgomery received a commendation from the City of New York presented by John C. Liu, and The Learning Tree Multi Cultural School's "Tuskegee Airman Legacy Award" for heroic and dedicated service, a proclamation from Julissa Ferreras, Council Member, 21st District, Queens, New York. In February 2012, Council Seabrook presented Montgomery the City Council Citation for Extraordinary Service to Our Nation and Sacrifices in the Civil Rights Movement and in April he was presented the Simon Wiesenthal Center Award for "Valor" and in May Dabney Montgomery was inducted into the New York State Senate Veteran's Hall of Fame and entered into the New York State Senate Legislative Resolution in special recognition of his life time of loyalty and distinguished service as a renowned Tuskegee

Airman and in May 2013 it was entered into the Congressional Record Proceedings and Debates in of 113th Congress, First Session, in celebration of Dabney N. Montgomery's 90th Birthday as "Our Nonagenarian Hero". In May 2015 Livingston College conferred a Doctor of Humane Letters Degree on Mr. Dabney N. Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery's widow is Amelia A. Montgomery. They had no children.

WHEREAS: Dabney N. Montgomery Place shall be located at 136th and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd on the NW corner.

The Historic Preservation and Transportation Committee voted on this item May 9th 2017 with a vote of 6 in favor 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.