



## MAYOR PROCLAIMS HONORS THE LATE GENE DORRIS FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OPELIKA



*Mayor Gary Fuller, Ricky Dorris, Lagina Dorris, Bekah McCormick*

**WHEREAS, Gene A. Dorris was born in Pinson, Tennessee to the late Gladys and Victor Dorris on May 26, 1932 and passed away at his home on December 9, 2018. He was 86 years old; and**

**WHEREAS, in 1953, Gene Dorris drove into the City of Opelika with a suitcase containing 10 to 12 paint brushes and several cans of different colored paint; his plan was to paint signs for a living; and**

**WHEREAS, he had no idea that 66 years later, he would have the oldest owner/operated skilled labor business in Opelika. His talent and work can be viewed in every area of Opelika. Not only was he in business for 66 years, Dorris Signs has been in the same building for over 55 of those years; and**

**WHEREAS, at one time or another, Gene has painted the signs on every single building in Downtown Opelika. Most of the people who were born and raised in Opelika can remember watching Gene hand letter signs in Downtown Opelika or they can remember just “hanging out” at the sign shop as teenagers. Everyone was welcomed. Although computer technology has erased the days of hand lettering, some of his handiwork still exist and can be seen in the downtown area, city schools, and local churches; and**

**WHEREAS, his talent has been the backdrop for the way Our Beloved City has looked throughout these 66 years and Gene’s “fingerprints” are not only visible in Opelika, but throughout the entire southeast as well. Last year, Doris Signs completed work in 37 cities in Alabama, yet remains a small hometown “shop” that you can still drop in, pull up a chair and just hang out; and**

**WHEREAS, many times, Gene was asked what was the secret to his business longevity? His response was that you must love where you work, and you must treat your hometown customers like family.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor Gary Fuller and the entire City of Opelika do hereby express our sincere appreciation, respect and honor to the memory of Gene A. Dorris. Although Gene is no longer with us, the company he started still produces many of the signs you see every day and are continuing to put his “fingerprints” throughout Opelika. One thing is for certain, Gene loved Opelika and Opelika loved Gene.**

**ADOPTED and APPROVED this the 5th day of February 2019.**