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Whereas:

It has come to the attention of this City Council that Edith Blair Staton will celebrate her 100th birthday as a special celebration at Christ Church on September 8, 1996; and

Whereas:

Edith was born in the Blair House in Washington on September 6, 1896; granddaughter of a member of President Lincoln's Cabinet; and

Whereas:

As a young woman, Edith was interested in children and concerned that girls could not join the Girl Scouts until age twelve; after learning about English programs for younger girls while on a trip to England, she founded, with two companions, the Brownie Scouts and served as a local and national leader for many years; and

Whereas:

When she was in her seventies, Edith moved to Cambridge to help raise her eight grandchildren after the death of her three children; Edith's only daughter; and

Whereas:

At the age of ninety-five, ^{Edith's} ~~her~~ concern to truly live the values of her religion led to her decision to ~~be~~ make a contribution to resolving the race issues we all face; and

Whereas:

Edith, who could not participate in large meetings because of ~~the~~ heavy difficulties, used her apartment as a place to invite students, mixed groups, many from Africa and other countries, for dinner and conversation and for mutual learning; she often used a video, ~~about~~ "Healing the Heart of America," about an effort in Richmond, Virginia, to bring people together; and

Whereas:

Edith's extraordinary life has been filled with

contributions to her family, friends, community and country; now therefore be it

Resolved: That the CC go on record wishing Edith Blair Staton a very happy one hundredth birthday; and be it further

Resolved: SEC to E B S on behalf of entire CC

JMB

FAX # 349-4287

**INFORMATION FOR KATHY BORN
DRAFT OF LETTER CONTAINING EDITH STATON CELEBRATION**

Kathy -

All ideas welcome about honoring Edith. I can be reached in Maine at 207 348 9976 or e-mail at RWTobin@AOL.com

June 25, 1996

The Honorable Edward Kennedy
The United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy,

→ Christ Church Cambridge and Edith Blair Staton's family are planning a celebration of her one hundredth birthday at Christ Church on September 8, 1996. It is our hope that President Clinton will take special notice of this occasion since Edith was born in the Blair House in Washington on September 6, 1896. She has been a life long Democrat and has supported the party in a variety of ways for nearly a century.

She is truly an extraordinary human being who comes from a distinguished family that helped to make Washington what it is. Her grandfather was in President Lincoln's cabinet and he was the founder of Silver Spring, Maryland. The story is that he was riding a horse and was thrown. He found the horse drinking from a spring containing malachite. The area was so beautiful he bought a substantial amount of acreage and called it Silver Spring. Edith's father chose to live there with his family while her uncle and his family remained in Blair House. Thus, Edith spent her childhood at their house at Silver Spring.

She married Admiral Staton who was a distinguished military man in World War I.

→ As a young woman she was interested in children and was concerned that young girls could not join the Girl Scouts until about twelve years old. While in England she learned about programs there for younger girls and returned to America to found with two companions the Brownie Scouts. She served as a national and local leader for many years.

She and Admiral Staton had one daughter who married Bernard McCabe, an English Professor who is now a well known writer of children's books in England. The McCabes had eight children. Edith's daughter died of cancer at an early age leaving the children in the care of her husband. Edith moved to Cambridge when she was in her seventies to help raise her grandchildren.

At ninety-five she came to me concerned that she was "not doing enough to be a good Christian." She decided that she wanted to make a contribution to resolving the race issues we all face. Because her hearing has failed to some degree she knew that she could no longer participate in large meetings. She found her way of making a contributions by using her apartment as a place to invite students, mixed groups, many from Africa and other countries, for dinner and conversation and to learn from them. She then found a video which moved her deeply called "Healing the Heart of America," about an effort in Richmond, Virginia to bring people together. For the last three years she has been inviting into her home groups of five or six people to view and discuss the video. She has had between one hundred fifty and two hundred people in for that purpose. All leave inspired by Edith and her efforts.

The number of quiet gifts, loving gestures and support she has offered to all of us cannot be counted. Recently she has been attending elementary schools discussing her video and talking to the children about her life. Our grandson, Graham, invited her to his kindergarten class when they were learning to count to 100. There assignment was to bring in something about 'one hundred.' Graham brought Edith who told them of her life in Washington and Silver Spring and what it was like to live for one hundred years.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if President Clinton could be in this area on September 8 to pay her a call? If not would he consider a phone call about noon on Sunday, September 8 while we are celebrating her day? We would be glad to do whatever is necessary from our end.

If you have any other ideas about how to acknowledge Edith's extraordinary life and her contributions to the country and to so many individuals we would be glad to hear them. I know these things depend on many circumstances and the President's schedule is difficult. But we think it is worth a try. Let me know if I can provide more information or answer questions.

We would also be grateful for your acknowledgement of Edith's birthday in any way you feel appropriate.

Thanks for anything you can do to help.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Tobin



City of Cambridge

3.

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 29, 1996

VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that **Edith Blair Staton** will celebrate her One Hundredth Birthday at a special celebration at Christ Church on September 8, 1996; and

WHEREAS: Edith was born in the Blair House in Washington on September 6, 1896, granddaughter of a member of President Lincoln's cabinet; and

WHEREAS: As a young women, Edith was interested in children and concerned that girls could not join the Girl Scouts until age twelve; after learning about English programs for younger girls while on a trip to England, she founded, with two companions, the Brownie Scouts, and she served as a local and national leader for many years; and

WHEREAS: When she was in her seventies, Edith moved to Cambridge to help raise her eight grandchildren after the death of their mother, Edith's daughter; and

WHEREAS: At the age of ninety-five, Edith's concern to truly live the values of her religion led to her decision to make a contribution to resolving the race issues we all face; and

WHEREAS: Edith, who could not participate in large meetings because of hearing difficulties, used her apartment as a place to invite students, mixed groups, many from Africa and other countries, for dinner and conversation, and for mutual learning; she often used a video "Healing the Heart of America," about an effort in Richmond, Virginia, to bring people together; and

WHEREAS: Edith's extraordinary life has been filled with contributions to her family, friends, community and country; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record wishing **Edith Blair Staton** a very happy One Hundredth Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to **Edith Blair Staton** on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council July 29, 1996

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy; *D. Margaret Drury*

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

3.

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 29, 1996

VICE MAYOR BORN

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Donohay, Sullivan, McCarry, Reaney, Russell
Consent Order #3
Sullivan, Toomey, Triandafyllou
Vice Mayor Born re: Best wishes to
Edith Blair Staton on a very happy
One Hundredth Birthday.

R-739

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In City Council July 29, 1996

Order Adopted