

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, BREADON,
COLETTA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA,
WEBER, WORRELL, AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ERNESTINA "TITINA" SILÁ AND HER ROLE AS A PIONEERING LEADER IN THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE IN GUINEA-BISSAU

- WHEREAS,** Ernestina "Titina" Silá, an esteemed revolutionary figure born on April 1, 1943, in the village of Cadique Betna, nestled within the scenic landscape of the Tombali region in Portuguese colonized Guinea, *and*
- WHEREAS,** She dedicated her entire life to the noble cause of liberation and gender equality in the cherished homeland of Guinea-Bissau; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Titina's courageous contributions to the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) during the Guinea-Bissau War of Independence against the Portuguese Empire made her one of the most iconic female soldiers and leaders of the revolution, earning her praise and recognition from PAIGC's leader, Amílcar Cabral; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Titina's leadership on the Northern Front of the war and exemplified her commitment to social reconstruction and political education, demonstrating her invaluable role in shaping the course of the conflict; *and*
- WHEREAS,** On January 30, 1973, while en route to attend Cabral's funeral, Silá's life was tragically cut short when her detachment was ambushed by Portuguese forces near the Farim River, marking her as a revolutionary martyr whose memory continues to inspire generations and serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made for Guinea-Bissau's independence; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Her legacy extends beyond her military contributions, as her example has been used to educate young men and women on gender equality and leadership, and her memory is commemorated annually on January 30th, celebrated as National Women's Day in Guinea-Bissau; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Titina's significant contributions to the PAIGC included her design of uniforms for the newly-recruited militiawomen, reflecting her commitment to empowering women within the revolutionary movement and ensuring their visibility and recognition in the struggle for independence; *and*

WHEREAS, Her leadership as the assistant to the front's commander and later as political commissar demonstrated her strategic acumen and organizational prowess, contributing to the effectiveness and success of the PAIGC's military operations and political initiatives during the war of independence; *and*

WHEREAS, Titina Silá's unwavering dedication to the ideals of the PAIGC and her selfless sacrifice for the liberation of Guinea-Bissau serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration for future generations, embodying the spirit of resilience, courage, and determination in the face of adversity; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council, with utmost reverence and profound admiration, hereby officially extends its heartfelt recognition to the extraordinary legacy of Ernestina “Titina” Silá, commemorating her unparalleled leadership, unwavering resolve, and selfless sacrifices in the relentless struggle for independence and the relentless pursuit of gender equality within the cherished nation of Guinea-Bissau, an enduring testament to her enduring impact and profound significance in shaping the course of history for generations to come.

Filed on: April 3, 2024