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NAVAL AIR RESERVE
50TH ANNIVERSARY
1916 - 1966



Mayor Ivan Allen
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia.

To a Great Man






330 Pat Mell Rd SW.
Townhouse B-3
Marietta, Georgia
September 7, 1966.

Dear Mayor Allen:

May I congratulate you (and send my best wishes to you) for your actions in the riot yesterday. I admire you deeply, and wish there were more leaders like you in the nation — reasonable, well-balanced, and brave, — dedicated to the welfare of his city and with the moral and physical courage such dedication needs.

From the North (as of a few months ago) I have not known the race problem as Southerners have known it. The only colored people I've known have been my daughter's voice teacher and her friends — the teacher I've come to love as a dear friend. Consequently, negroes to me are not "fugitives from the jungle" as one acquaintance calls them but friends of mine, as my white friends are.



But, of course, not all colored people are as fine as Miss Capers (the teacher), as all my white friends are not typical of all white people. What we all must strive for is to be "color blind" as you are, and what we all must do is to judge each person on his merits as a person, not on the quantity of melanin in his skin.

You are not only taking good care of a city I've come to love and enjoy, but you are setting an example that a nation can well watch, copy, and strive to equal.

Sincerely yours,

Alma Heflin McCormick
(Mrs. Archie T. E. McCormick)