

*Dear NED Sisters,*

*Today, our Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin was welcomed home. Aretha Franklin wrote the soundtrack for our lives, leaving an indelible imprint on us and the world. Her influence on all aspects of American life from music to the civil rights movement is a legacy that is inscribed in the history. Her iconic song RESPECT is the anthem for those who demand freedom and equality in the United States and across the world.*

*The Queen of Soul was given a precious gift that exceeded any adjectives in the dictionary that one could try to use to describe her voice. She used her gift to advance the cause of civil rights and influenced the course of history. She is the embodiment of a strong and powerful business woman who provided us through her music encouragement, pride, joy, faith and love.*

*We realize her voice was a gift from God that can never be replicated or replaced. We will all miss her.*

*Please keep her family in your prayers and thoughts during this most difficult journey.*

*Aretha Franklin, you will always be our Queen.*

*Ericka J. Davis*

*17<sup>th</sup> Governor*

*Northeast District*