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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Democrats Praise Rep. Stell Parker Selby Following Her Decision to Step Down

Milton, DE, June 24, 2025 – In the aftermath of today’s announcement that Representative Stell Parker Selby, D-Milton, is resigning due to health reasons, county and local Democratic leaders are expressing appreciation for her years of public service. The first African American in Delaware history to serve in the House of Representatives from Sussex County, Parker Selby was a pioneer in Delaware politics.

Born and raised in Southern Delaware, Esthelda “Stell” Parker Selby served as a teacher and administrator for over 30 years in the Cape Henlopen School District. Following her retirement, she served for five years on the Cape Henlopen School Board and later the Milton City Council.

In 2022, Parker was elected to the Delaware House of Representatives from the 20th District, serving with distinction while championing healthcare and education issues. During her first term, she sponsored key legislation to increase teacher pay; make housing more affordable in Eastern Sussex; underwrite repairs for low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards; and improve access to speech-language pathologists in Delaware schools.

“This community has always been a part of me, and I’ve done my best to reflect its strength and spirit in everything I do,” Parker Selby wrote in the letter announcing her resignation.

“Stell Parker Selby is a Sussex County treasure,” said Sue Nyden, chair of the 20th Representative District Democratic Committee. “Growing up in segregated Sussex County, Stell was the first Black girl to attend Girls’ State at Legislative Hall, where many years later she was the first Black woman to be sworn in as RD20’s Representative to the Delaware House of Representatives. Stell has won many awards over the years, but when asked to name her greatest accomplishment, Stell has always said the success of her students.

“She’s beloved by constituents in the 20th RD,” added Nyden.

Soon after being reelected to a second term in 2024, Parker Selby suffered a serious medical emergency before having the opportunity to serve in the current legislative session. Although she submitted a letter to the Speaker and Chief Clerk stating that she would be absent for the month of January, she never fully regained the strength to permit a return. During her



recuperation over the last six months, however, Parker Selby's office remained open as staff members responded to constituent outreach and concerns.

"To my constituents: please know that I gave everything I had to this role, and I wanted more than anything to return to it," Parker Selby stated in her letter. "But I also know when it's time to let go—and to trust that the seeds planted over a lifetime of service will continue to grow."

Under Delaware law, Parker Selby's resignation will trigger a special election, the date yet to be set. Until then, words of gratitude and comfort continue to pour in to Parker Selby for her decades of service and devotion to the community.

"It has been an honor working with Representative Stell Parker Selby, whose commitment to public service and the constituents of the 20th District has been truly inspiring," said Jeff Balk, chair of the Sussex County Democratic Committee. "On behalf of Democrats across the county, I extend my warmest wishes for her full and speedy recovery."

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