

State of Louisiana

Parish of Caddo In the Name and By the Authority of The Caddo Parish Commission Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is pleased to acknowledge events of significance that occur in the community, and to recognize the organizations who are now and for a long time have been in the forefront of positive and worthy activities and deeds that accrue to the benefit of all Caddo citizens; and

WHEREAS, such an organization is the **Arc Caddo-Bossier**, established in 1954, to build unlimited opportunities for people with disabilities through various programs and services, and it continues to build these opportunities today following 70 years of service; and

WHEREAS, The organization was founded by a small group of families united by the common bond of providing quality education and opportunities for their children with disabilities but has blossomed into an organization providing an array of services and support programs to address the needs of everyone in the community impacted by intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) from infancy throughout every stage of adulthood;

WHEREAS, The Arc Caddo-Bossier employs more than 500 people in the community throughout its many divisions such as their Employment Services & Frost Industries, which provide full-time and part-time work and job training for more than 100 men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD);

WHEREAS, the founding program, The Arc's Goldman School & Childhood Development Center has expanded to a second location, providing childcare and early education/intervention for children with and without disabilities, allowing them to learn and grow alongside one another in an inclusive environment and is the only child development center of its kind that remained open following budget cuts thanks in part to the generous support of the community;

WHEREAS, the Arc Caddo-Bossier set a precedent with the first residential home of its kind in the state of Louisiana and currently provides services for up to 56 men and women with disabilities with eight community homes throughout Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, The Arc Caddo-Bossier provides supported independent living and respite care services to area families based on the needs of each person to maximize their abilities and to promote balance and wellness in their lives; and

WHEREAS, The Arc's Conly Day Program currently serves 125 participants daily and is licensed by the state of Louisiana to provide activities and skills training adults with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Arc's GREAT Program offers state-of-the-art therapeutic horseback riding and Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) to children and adults with developmental disabilities and an inclusive experience called Camp Victory each summer; and

WHEREAS, the Arc Caddo-Bossier has a 21-member, all volunteer Board of Directors comprised of community leaders, parents, family members, self-advocates, and related professionals; and

WHEREAS, the Arc Caddo-Bossier Foundation Board of Trustees exists to maximize the mission and ensure the financial stability of the organization; and

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WHEREAS, The Arc Caddo-Bossier has transitioned through external and internal changes with strength and integrity and is poised to embark upon their next 70 years of serving citizens with disabilities and promoting inclusion in our community.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT, by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal and regular session this 4th day of April, 2024 that it does hereby proclaim, in recognition of 70 years of service, Saturday, April 20th, 2024 as:

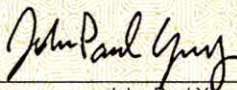
'ARC of Caddo-Bossier Day'

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to join with the Parish in recognition of this important celebration.

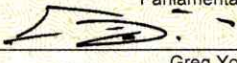
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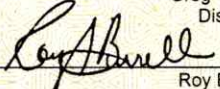


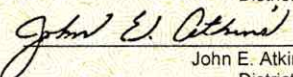

Jeff Everson
Commission Clerk


John-Paul Young
President



Grace Anne Blake
Parliamentarian

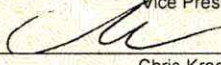

Greg Young
District 2


Roy Burrell
District 5

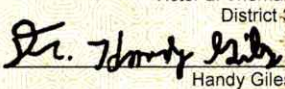

John E. Atkins
District 9

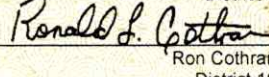

Ed Lazarus
District 11

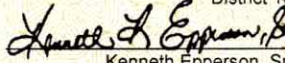

Stormy Gage-Watts
Vice President


Chris Kracman
District 1


Victor L. Thomas
District 3


Handy Giles
District 6


Ron Cothran
District 10


Kenneth Epperson, Sr.
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