

State of Louisiana

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

Special Resolution of Recognizing National Autism Awareness Month

WHEREAS, every person deserves the chance to reach for their highest hopes and fulfill their greatest potential. On National Autism Awareness Month, we reaffirm our dedication to ensuring that belief is a reality for all those who live on the autism spectrum. And we uphold our obligation to help make sure every man, woman, and child, regardless of ability or background, is accepted for who they are and able to lead a life free from discrimination and filled with opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder characterized by behavioral and communicational affections that impact a person's ability to navigate social interactions and also causes repetitive and restricted behavior which, according to the latest report by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), affects 1 in 36 children in the United States, an increase of 312% since 2000; and

WHEREAS, boys are diagnosed with autism 4.2 times more often than girls, and it is a lifelong diagnosis that encompasses a wide array of developmental differences and degrees of impairment, making every individual's experience with ASD unique. Many individuals with autism have exceptional skills, such as heightened memory, concentration, or creativity, often excelling in fields like mathematics, science, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, Autism is not a diagnosis that needs to be met with despair, but World Autism Awareness Day provides a platform for celebrating diversity and inclusion instead. This day celebrates people with autism for who they are - unique individuals with their own talents, strengths, and gifts to share and we are reminded that autism is a lifelong condition with varying degrees of severity and we should continue to support research for treatment and therapies that will improve the lives of those with autism; and

WHEREAS, World Autism Awareness Day is celebrated April 2 of each year as a day to recognize, educate and to continuously raise awareness in the lives of people with autism and to show support for their needs and has been designated since 2007 by The United Nations General Assembly and is celebrated locally with a Ceremony at the Bakowski Bridge of Lights; and

WHEREAS, from home to school and in businesses and communities around the nation, people living with autism spectrum disorder contribute in immeasurable ways to our society. They remind us each day that every person is born with unique talents and should be treated with respect, play an active role in planning for their futures, and feel empowered to fully participate in and contribute to their communities. When those with autism have access to equal opportunities, we all do better, and that begins with making sure our country lives up to its commitment to ensure all things are possible for all people; and

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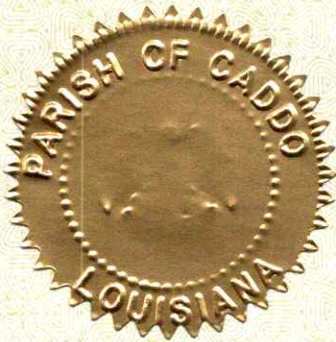
WHEREAS, Americans with autism play an important role in our national story, and in their daily lives they embody the belief at the heart of our founding: that in America, with hard work and equal access, all people can realize their aspirations. Today, and every day, let us reach for a future in which no person living on the autism spectrum is limited by anything but the size of their dreams -- one in which all people have the opportunity to live a life filled with a sense of identity, purpose, and self-determination; and

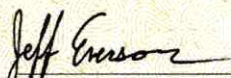
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that it does hereby recognize National Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd, and further proclaims April, 2024 as:

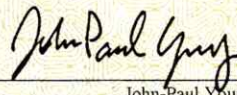
'NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH'


in Caddo Parish and urge citizens and organizations to participate in activities and demonstrations that provide a special opportunity to educate the community about autism.

ATTEST:

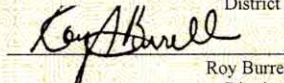


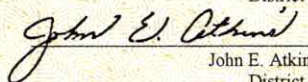

Jeff Everson
Commission Clerk


John-Paul Young
President

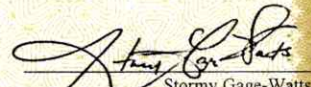

Grace Anne Blake
Parliamentarian



Greg Young
District 2

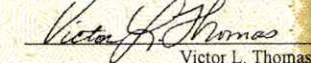

Roy Burrell
District 5



John E. Atkins
District 9

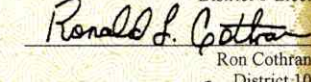

Ed Lazarus
District 11



Stormy Gage-Watts
Vice President


Chris Kracman
District 1


Victor L. Thomas
District 3


Steven Jones
District 6-Elect


Ron Cothran
District 10


Kenneth Epperson, Sr.
District 12