

State of Louisiana



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

PROCLAMATION HONORING THE PROGRESSIVE SMITH BROTHERS

WHEREAS, The Progressive Smith Brothers, a legendary gospel group formed in 1944, have graced audiences with their music for eighty years, becoming an iconic name in the gospel music scene and serving as an inspiration to generations of artists and listeners; and

WHEREAS, the original group was composed of four brothers—Willie, Palmo, Benny Ray, and another Smith brother—who began singing at a young age, nurtured by their parents, Augusta Smith, who served as the group's musician, and Palmo Smith, Sr., who was a lead singer and guiding influence; and

WHEREAS, The Progressive Smith Brothers gained early exposure through appearances on KANB Radio Station, where their uncle Willie "Uncle Bill" Caston was a radio announcer, and later on KOKA Radio Station; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, The Progressive Smith Brothers were featured on **The Hallelujah Train** on KSLA Channel, and for the next twenty-eight years, their beautiful voices resonated across the community every Sunday, becoming a cherished part of the lives of their devoted listeners; and

WHEREAS, at the height of their career, The Progressive Smith Brothers were known across the country for their distinctive gospel sound, recording eight 8-track tapes, three CDs, and two 45 RPM records, leaving an enduring legacy in the music industry; and

WHEREAS, the current group continues to honor the tradition set by the original members, consisting of two original brothers, Willie and Palmo Smith, along with their nephew Willie B. Mitchell, and joined by Pastor Larry Thorn, Pastor Larry Davis, George Orgun, James Presley, Ronald Crawford, LaDarren Thomas, and Marcus Hamilton; and

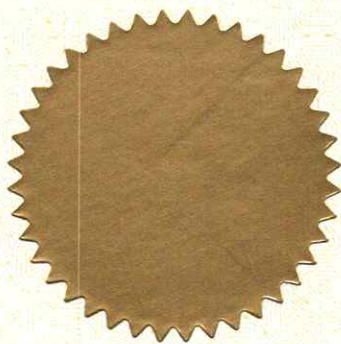
WHEREAS, former lead singer Benny Ray Smith faithfully served the group until his health began to decline in 2015, contributing greatly to the group's legacy and continued success; and

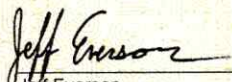
WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to recognize the Progressive Smith Brothers for their outstanding contributions to the gospel music industry and for the joy and inspiration they have brought to audiences for over eight decades;

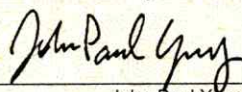
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, in due and legal session convened, that it does hereby honor and commend **The Progressive Smith Brothers** for their eighty-year legacy of music, faith, and service, and for their continued impact on the cultural and spiritual life of our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption, and that a copy be sent to The Progressive Smith Brothers in recognition of their extraordinary contributions to the music world.

ATTEST:

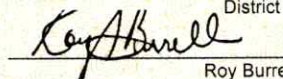


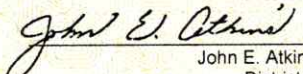

Jeff Everson
Commission Clerk


John-Paul Young
President

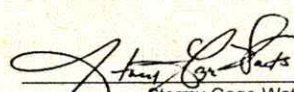

Grace Anne Blake
Parliamentarian

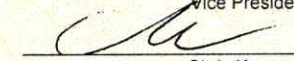

Greg Young
District 2

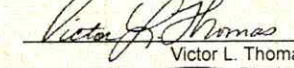

Roy Burrell
District 5



John E. Atkins
District 9

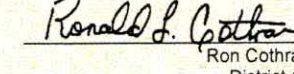

Ed Lazarus
District 11



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Vice President


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District 1


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District 10


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