

## *Proclamation of Remembrance & Respect Shreveport Six 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

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*WHEREAS, on August 2, 2010, the City of Shreveport was forever changed by an unimaginable tragedy when six young lives were lost in the Red River—an event that came to be known as the “Shreveport Six”; and*

*WHEREAS, the victims—DeKendrix Warner (15), JaMarcus Warner (14), Takeitha Warner (13), LaDarius Stewart (17), Litrelle Stewart (18), and Shanquilla Warner (13)—were siblings and cousins who perished while trying to save one another from drowning in a section of the river known for its swift currents and sudden drop-offs; and*

*WHEREAS, this heartbreaking loss deeply impacted not only their family, but the entire Shreveport and Caddo Parish community, revealing a critical gap in water safety awareness and swimming ability among local youth; and*

*WHEREAS, in the years since this tragedy, community leaders, nonprofits, and concerned citizens have committed themselves to preventing such a loss from ever happening again by promoting water safety and swim education across the region; and*

*WHEREAS, one such response was the founding of the "Swim for Life" program, which has since trained thousands of students in basic water safety—offered free of charge to ensure equitable access for all children regardless of background or income; and*

*WHEREAS, another grassroots initiative emerged to teach adults how to swim, inspired directly by the lessons of this tragedy, so that entire families can be better prepared when near water and empowered to act in emergencies; and*

*WHEREAS, these efforts serve as both a tribute and a living legacy to the Shreveport Six, turning grief into action and heartbreak into healing;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Commissioner Grace Anne Blake offers this Proclamation of Remembrance & Respect in honor of the Shreveport Six on this solemn anniversary and support water safety initiatives to ensure that no family ever endures a similar loss.*

*Attest:*

  
Grace Anne Blake  
Commissioner, District 8

  
Michelle Nations  
Assistant Commission Clerk