

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION OF  
THE FALL 2025 NATIONAL SALUTE TO AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS**

**WHEREAS**, the National Salute to African American Authors is a celebration that honors the voices, creativity, and cultural contributions of African American writers whose works enrich literature, preserve history, and inspire readers across generations; and

**WHEREAS**, this nationwide observance is reflected in local communities, including here in Caddo Parish, where African American authors and their supporters are celebrated for their literary achievements and their impact on education, culture, and community identity; and

**WHEREAS**, on Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, the Mooretown Branch of the Shreve Memorial Library, located at 4630 Hollywood Avenue in Shreveport, Louisiana, hosted a special program in recognition of the National Salute, organized by Mr. Marcus Persley, highlighting the importance of African American authors and literature; and

**WHEREAS**, the celebration of African American authors in Caddo Parish has also been lifted up through other community programs, including a special feature on the television program *“Gospel in the Red Room,”* which showcased the works of five local authors: **Dr. Tyrone Burton, Dr. Patricia Johnson, Eugenia James, Dyani Allen, and Melvin Lars**; and

**WHEREAS**, these events and the authors they highlight underscore the vibrancy and importance of African American literary voices in Caddo Parish, offering inspiration, reflection, and representation for readers of all ages; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby recognize and celebrate the **Fall 2025 National Salute to African American Authors**, and commends the Mooretown Branch of the Shreve Memorial Library, Mr. Marcus Persley, and all participating authors for their leadership in ensuring that African American literature and culture remain accessible and celebrated in our community;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be made a part of the official minutes of the Caddo Parish Commission and a copy be made available to the Mooretown Branch Library in appreciation of their efforts to honor African American authors and their invaluable contributions to literature and community life.

Attest:

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Stormy Gage-Watts  
Commission President  
District 7