

Special Resolution

Paying Tribute to Civil Rights Legends

***WHEREAS,** the Caddo Parish Commission joins the North Louisiana Civil Rights Coalition in recognizing the enduring contributions and sacrifices of those who courageously stood for justice, equality, and human dignity during the American Civil Rights Movement; and*

***WHEREAS,** these five legendary figures—Mrs. Mamie Love Wallace, Reverend Claude Clifford McLain, Reverend Harry Blake, Reverend E. Edward Jones, and Reverend Calvin Austin—each played an indelible role in shaping the moral and civic progress of Caddo Parish, the State of Louisiana, and the nation; and*

***WHEREAS, Mrs. Mamie Love Wallace,** a pioneering beautician and tireless community leader, provided not only beauty services but also courage, dignity, and organizational strength to the local civil rights movement. Her salon served as a safe haven for activists and a headquarters for grassroots organizing during the struggle for equality in Shreveport; and*

***WHEREAS, Reverend Claude Clifford McLain,** as longtime pastor of Little Union Baptist Church (1959–1991) and President of the Shreveport Branch of the NAACP, transformed his church into a central meeting place for the Civil Rights Movement in North Louisiana, guiding the community through some of its most turbulent and transformative decades; and*

***WHEREAS, Reverend Harry Blake,** as pastor of Mount Canaan Baptist Church and a local leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, faced violence and persecution for his courage. On September 22, 1963, following a memorial service for the victims of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing, Reverend Blake was brutally beaten by police for his peaceful leadership—a sacrifice that symbolized the cost of freedom and the moral clarity of nonviolent resistance; and*

***WHEREAS, Reverend E. Edward Jones,** pastor of Galilee Baptist Church for more than fifty years, was a towering spiritual and civic leader who served on the Caddo Parish Police Jury and stood as a plaintiff in the lawsuit that led to the desegregation of Caddo Parish Public Schools. His lifelong dedication to justice and education profoundly reshaped opportunities for generations of African Americans in North Louisiana; and*

***WHEREAS, Reverend Calvin Austin,** a young student activist during the height of the Civil Rights struggle, led a demonstration protesting the brutal beating of Reverend Blake. For this act of courage, he was arrested, jailed for forty days, and expelled from Caddo Parish Schools. Yet his resilience and moral fortitude inspired many—decades later, he was fittingly awarded his high school diploma, a testament to the enduring triumph of justice over oppression; and*

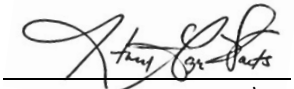
***WHEREAS,** the combined legacies of these five extraordinary leaders embody the faith, courage, and determination that transformed not only Caddo Parish but the entire nation. Their sacrifices, leadership, and devotion to the cause of civil and human rights continue to inspire future generations to speak out against injustice wherever it exists;*

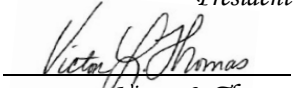
***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby posthumously honor and remember Mrs. Mamie Love Wallace, Reverend Claude Clifford McLain, Reverend Harry Blake, Reverend E. Edward Jones, and Reverend Calvin Austin, and recognizes their immeasurable contributions to civil rights, equality, and community advancement; and*

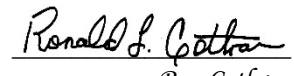
***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that in addition to becoming a part of the permanent records of Caddo Parish, that this Resolution be presented on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 6:00 P.M., during the North Louisiana Civil Rights Coalition’s Annual Legends Gala at the Shreveport Convention Center, as a permanent record of gratitude from the citizens of Caddo Parish for the courage, sacrifice, and leadership of these extraordinary individuals.*

ATTEST:


Jeff Everson
Commission Clerk


Stormy Gage-Watts
President


Victor L. Thomas
Parliamentarian


Ron Cothran
District 10