

Caddo Parish Commission
Special Resolution Commemorating the Anniversary of Bloody Sunday

WHEREAS, on March 7, 1965, a group of peaceful civil rights demonstrators gathered in Selma, Alabama, to march from Selma to Montgomery in support of equal voting rights for African Americans and to protest the systemic disenfranchisement that denied countless citizens the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, as the marchers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, they were met with brutal violence from state troopers and local law enforcement officers, who used billy clubs, tear gas, and mounted patrols to attack the unarmed demonstrators in an event that became known to history as *Bloody Sunday*; and

WHEREAS, the shocking images of this violent assault on peaceful protesters were broadcast across the nation, awakening the conscience of America and galvanizing widespread support for the civil rights movement and the protection of voting rights; and

WHEREAS, the courage and sacrifice of those marchers—including leaders such as **John Lewis**, who suffered a fractured skull during the attack—helped inspire a renewed national commitment to justice and equality under the law; and

WHEREAS, the events of Bloody Sunday played a pivotal role in the passage of the landmark **Voting Rights Act of 1965**, signed into law by **Lyndon B. Johnson**, which prohibited racial discrimination in voting and provided federal protections to ensure that every citizen could exercise the fundamental right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of Bloody Sunday continues to serve as a powerful reminder that democracy requires vigilance, courage, and participation, and that the right to vote remains one of the most sacred responsibilities and privileges of American citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Caddo Parish recognize that the struggle for civil rights and equal access to the ballot has profoundly shaped communities across the nation, including those in Louisiana, and continues to inspire new generations to work toward a more just and inclusive society;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Caddo Parish Commission** does hereby commemorate the anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama, honoring the bravery of the men and women who marched for justice and recognizing the lasting impact of their sacrifice on the advancement of civil rights and voting rights in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission encourages all citizens to reflect upon the lessons of this historic event, to remain committed to protecting the right to vote, and to continue the ongoing work of building a democracy that ensures equality, dignity, and opportunity for all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of the regular meeting of the Caddo Parish Commission and that it serve as a lasting tribute to the courage of those who stood for justice on that historic day.