

Special Resolution of Recognition For Mr. Green Whitaker

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is honored to recognize and celebrate the centennial birthday of Mr. Green Whitaker, Sr., a beloved Shreveport treasure, respected community leader, and living testament to faith, perseverance, and service, who was born on February 2, 1926, in the small farming town of Holly, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker was born to Estella and Isaac Whitaker as the second youngest of nineteen children, and was raised on an 80-acre family farm purchased by his father, where the Whitaker family lived self-sufficiently, growing and raising nearly all their own food—a powerful story of resilience and unity later chronicled in the award-winning book *When Your Hand is in the Lion's Mouth: The Life and Wisdom of a Man Named Green*, authored by his youngest daughter, Nita Whitaker; and

WHEREAS, the Whitaker family's life was profoundly altered when oil was discovered on their land, followed by unlawful drilling from an adjacent property that caused saltwater contamination, forcing the family to sell their once-fertile land and transition from landowners to sharecroppers on the Frierson Plantation; and

WHEREAS, despite these hardships, the Whitaker family remained strong under the leadership of Isaac Whitaker, a man of character, compassion, intelligence, generosity, and deep love for his family—values that were instilled in his children and carried forward by Green Whitaker, Sr., throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, rising from his beginnings as a sharecropper's son, Mr. Whitaker became a blooming entrepreneur and devoted family man, marrying Ola Mae White, with whom he raised four children and countless others in a spirit of community, mentorship, and love, beginning their life together in the Cedar Grove community of Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker faithfully served the people of Caddo Parish for 35 years as a bus driver with the Caddo Parish School Board, while simultaneously demonstrating an extraordinary work ethic—working as many as five part-time jobs at one time, operating a takeout food business with his wife, co-founding and co-owning Good Samaritan Funeral Home for 21 years, and achieving distinction as a top insurance salesman for more than 68 years; and

WHEREAS, a man of unwavering faith, Mr. Whitaker has served as a deacon for more than 75 years, and is widely known throughout Cedar Grove and beyond as a man of wisdom, kindness, integrity, and friendship, touching lives wherever he goes; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker is also a lifelong singer and musician, having served as a member and manager of the local gospel group *The Spiritual Jubilee*, using his voice to uplift, inspire, and spread faith through music; and

WHEREAS, now the last living member of his large extended family, Mr. Whitaker's life spans a remarkable century of experiences—from rural sharecropping to business success, from community leadership to global travel—and includes extraordinary accomplishments such as volunteering with the Foster Grandparents program in his late eighties and portraying Jesus on stage in a musical production in his nineties; and

WHEREAS, together with his late wife Ola Mae, who passed at the young age of 49, Mr. Whitaker was a pillar of service in the community, rarely allowing a week to pass without transporting families to church or choir rehearsal, hosting Bible studies and mission meetings in their home, visiting the sick, and raising funds for charitable causes; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Green Whitaker, Sr., stands today as a dependable positive role model, a faith warrior, a devoted father and mentor, and a patriarch whose life of service, humility, and perseverance continues to inspire generations throughout Caddo Parish;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby honor and celebrate Mr. Green Whitaker, Sr., on the joyous occasion of his 100th Birthday, recognizing a life that is nothing short of legendary and a legacy that will forever be woven into the fabric of our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission extends its deepest admiration, gratitude, and best wishes to Mr. Whitaker and his family, celebrating one hundred years of a life defined by faith, family, service, resilience, and love; and

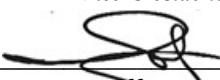
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of the Caddo Parish Commission and presented to Mr. Green Whitaker, Sr., as a lasting tribute to his remarkable life and enduring impact on Caddo Parish.

ATTEST:


Jeff Everson
Commission Clerk


Gregory Young
President


Victor L. Thomas
Vice President


Steffon Jones
Parliamentarian