



Caddo Parish Commission

Resolution of Remembrance & Respect

Honoring the Life and Legacy of Joe Robert Wills

Whereas, Mr. Joe Robert Wills was a lifelong resident of the Stoner Hill Community in Shreveport, Louisiana. Born on August 31, 1943, he lived a life devoted to family, service, and community until his passing on March 11, 2016; and

Whereas, he was the devoted husband of Mrs. Shirley Wills for fifty-two (52) years, and together they raised two sons, Jerard Wills, Sr., and the late Jerado Wills; and

Whereas, Mr. Wills was known as an exemplary citizen whose dedication to the betterment of the Stoner Hill Community helped strengthen the quality of life for its residents. Through his leadership and advocacy, he worked tirelessly to ensure that the community received the resources and improvements needed to remain vibrant and thriving, including the development and support of the Valencia Recreation Center and neighborhood street improvements; and

Whereas, for more than fifty (50) years, Mr. Wills committed himself to civic engagement and civil rights advocacy. He served as First Vice-President of the Shreveport Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where he helped lead voter registration initiatives, get-out-the-vote campaigns, and redistricting efforts that advanced fairness and representation; and

Whereas, he was the founder and president of the Eastside Brotherhood Association and played a key role in preserving the legacy and pride of the Stoner Hill Community. His leadership helped secure the renaming of Stoner Hill Elementary School to E. B. Williams Stoner Hill Elementary School in honor of longtime principal Dr. E. B. Williams, and he also led the effort to rename Hopewell Street as C. E. Galloway Boulevard in honor of the distinguished pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church, Reverend Charles Emanuel Galloway; and

Whereas, the life and service of Joe Robert Wills stand as a lasting example of leadership, dedication, and commitment to community.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Caddo Parish Commission, does hereby honor and remember Mr. Joe Robert Wills for his many contributions to the Stoner Hill Community and the Parish of Caddo.

Be It Further Resolved, that in recognition of his enduring legacy, a room at Valencia Park is hereby dedicated in honor of Mr. Joe Robert Wills, so that his contributions to the community will continue to be remembered. May this space continue to serve as a reminder of his commitment to service to our community and inspire future generations to follow his example of leadership and civic responsibility.

Attest:


Gregory Young
President


Victor L. Thomas
Vice-President


Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk