

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION

Honoring Stella Hernandez for Her Courage, Quick Thinking, and Exemplary Citizenship

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission takes great pride in recognizing the outstanding character, accomplishments, and contributions of young people whose actions demonstrate courage, compassion, responsibility, and a commitment to the well-being of others, reminding us that leadership and heroism are not measured by age, but by the willingness to do what is right when circumstances demand it; and

WHEREAS, Miss Stella Hernandez, a fifth-grade student at A.C. Steere Elementary School in Shreveport's historic Broadmoor neighborhood, has distinguished herself through her extraordinary awareness, quick thinking, and responsible actions in recognizing and reporting a potentially dangerous fire near her school campus; and

WHEREAS, during the early weeks of the school year, as the Shreveport community endured unusually high temperatures and drought conditions that heightened the danger of rapidly spreading fires, Stella observed a fire burning in the yard of a nearby residence and immediately recognized that the situation required attention and assistance; and

WHEREAS, rather than overlooking the danger or assuming that someone else would take responsibility, Stella demonstrated remarkable presence of mind by seeking out help, alerting others to the emergency, and ensuring that the appropriate individuals were made aware of the situation so that prompt action could be taken; and

WHEREAS, Stella's initiative was particularly commendable because she had only recently enrolled at A.C. Steere Elementary School and was still becoming familiar with her new surroundings, classmates, and teachers, yet she did not allow the uncertainty of being a new student to prevent her from speaking up when she recognized that the safety of others might be at risk; and

WHEREAS, the fire originated from an electrical malfunction involving a pump in the backyard of a residence belonging to Caddo Parish Commissioner Grace Anne Blake, who was out of town at the time and unaware of the danger developing on her property; and

WHEREAS, Stella's timely actions helped bring attention to the fire before it could spread to nearby structures, averting the potential for significant property damage and a much larger emergency in the surrounding Broadmoor neighborhood, particularly given the hazardous combination of dry vegetation, extreme heat, and nearby residential properties; and

WHEREAS, upon returning home and learning of the incident, Commissioner Grace Anne Blake was deeply moved by Stella's courage, thoughtfulness, and willingness to take action, and wishes to express her personal and heartfelt gratitude to this exceptional young lady for helping protect her home and the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, Stella's actions offer a powerful reminder that courage does not always require extraordinary strength or dramatic gestures, but often begins with simply paying attention, recognizing when something is wrong, and having the confidence to speak up and seek help; and

WHEREAS, by demonstrating concern for the safety and well-being of people she may not even have known, Stella has provided an inspiring example of responsible citizenship, community awareness, and compassion for others, reflecting values that the Caddo Parish Commission seeks to encourage in all residents, regardless of their age; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further recognizes that the example set by Stella Hernandez is one worthy of celebration throughout the Caddo Parish Public Schools, as it illustrates the importance of encouraging young people to trust their observations, communicate concerns, and understand that their voices and actions have the power to make a meaningful difference; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission joins Commissioner Grace Anne Blake, the faculty and staff of A.C. Steere Elementary School, and the residents of the Broadmoor neighborhood in expressing admiration and appreciation for Stella Hernandez, whose quick thinking, bravery, and thoughtful concern for others helped protect her community and demonstrated character and maturity well beyond her years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, in regular session convened, does hereby proudly recognize and commend **MISS STELLA HERNANDEZ**, a fifth-grade student at A.C. Steere Elementary School, for her exceptional courage, quick thinking, and responsible actions in identifying and reporting a potentially dangerous fire, thereby helping protect the homes, property, and well-being of residents in the Broadmoor neighborhood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission extends its particular appreciation to Stella for demonstrating the confidence to speak up and seek assistance, even as a new student adjusting to an unfamiliar school environment, and celebrates her as an outstanding example of the positive difference that young people can make through awareness, initiative, and concern for others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Commissioner Grace Anne Blake expresses her sincere and personal gratitude to Stella Hernandez for her timely intervention, her thoughtfulness, and her willingness to act when it mattered, recognizing that her actions helped protect not only the Commissioner's home, but potentially those of her neighbors as well.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Special Resolution be presented to Miss Stella Hernandez as a lasting expression of the pride, admiration, and gratitude of the Caddo Parish Commission and the citizens of Caddo Parish, with the hope that she will always remember that her voice matters, her actions can make a difference, and that the courage to do the right thing is among the most admirable qualities a person can possess.

ADOPTED by the Caddo Parish Commission on this ____ day of _____, 2026.