

State of Louisiana



Parish of Caddo In the Name and By the Authority of The Caddo Parish Commission Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation *Ms. Irene "Kamala" Lacy*

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Caddo Parish Commission to give appropriate acknowledgment and recognition to individuals that have rendered invaluable service to the citizens of Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Irene "Kamala" Lacy is an artist, advocate, educator and agent of change who has made an indelible mark on Caddo Parish through her efforts to promote and celebrate African heritage, including her 3 decades as Executive Director of the Afrikan Arts Council; and

WHEREAS, Lacy was born in the once country town of Terrell, TX on April 9, 1939 and raised by her grandmother, Emily Moore a devout member and matriarch of the Church of God in Christ. Lacy moved to Dallas at 14 years old, attended and graduated from James Madison High School in 1957, she continued her studies by working to pay her own way to Paul Quinn College in Waco, TX where she was an Honor Student, President of her Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and Editor of the School Paper before being married and divorced and returning to complete her degree and graduated with honors from Bishop College in Dallas, TX in 1963 and continue her passion for learning with graduate studies at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and The University of Texas at Odessa; and

WHEREAS, Lacy's love for learning took a new path when she was asked what she knew of Mother Africa and answered honestly that, despite her degrees, "I know absolutely nothing about Africa," this realization led her to pursue knowledge of African heritage that included the study of traditional art under esteemed Dallas artist Jackie Foch, and African studies under Dr. Maulana Karenya, Creator of Kwanzaa, and the Third Eye, who were cultural experts on Africa; and

WHEREAS, Lacy's professional career saw her put her work ethics and love of learning to use helping others whether it be her time in Dallas breaking barriers as the 1st Black Woman to be Terminal Manager of a Greyhound Line, or her 23 years of teaching in public schools in Dallas, Odessa and Shreveport, to her establishment of the Afrikan Arts Council, a non profit primarily dedicated to Kwanzaa and extending into other areas of African heritage; and

WHEREAS, The Afrikan Arts Council was officially incorporated as a non-profit in 1994 and has undertaken a number of initiatives including Kwanzaa For All; The Purple Dream, a drama class; Rise Up, a class teaching entrepreneurial skills through art; Juneteenth-Free at Last, where she worked with then State Representative, and current Commissioner, Roy Burrell to pass House Bill 298 allowing the sale of fireworks to be used in the celebration of Juneteenth; Life Lines, laying lines to create art now on display in the Ethiopia Museum, Dallas Museum, & SUSLA African American Museum; Prison Art, writing letters sharing art to and with prisoners; and Angel Art, providing neighborhood children an opportunity to sing, dance, learn to play instruments for Kwanzaa; and the AAC even travelled to Ethiopia to share and take back libraries of cultural information; and

WHEREAS, Irene Kamala Lacy's contributions are many, but she has never let her distinguished work get in the way of her love for and commitment to family. Lacy has 5 children, 15 grandchildren, many of whom she home schooled for a decade, and 6 great-grandchildren; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby declare and proclaim August 8th, 2021 to be:


'Ms. IRENE 'KAMALA' LACY DAY'

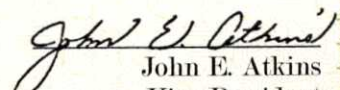
in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in recognition and admiration of her notable contributions to Caddo Parish.

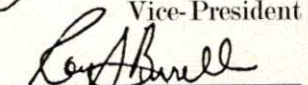
ATTEST:


Jeff Everson
Commission Clerk




Lyndon B. Johnson
President


John E. Atkins
Vice-President


Roy Burrell
District 5