

State of Louisiana



Parish of Caddo In the Name and By the Authority of The Caddo Parish Commission PROCLAMATION PEDIATRIC STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, pediatric stroke is a relatively rare condition, affecting 1 in 4,000 infants and an additional 2,000 children each year, it is also a top ten cause of death among U.S. children between infancy and age 19; and

WHEREAS, 60% of children who survive a stroke will have permanent neurological difficulties that can include cerebral palsy, epilepsy, impaired cognitive function, impaired movement, and lost or damaged vision, hearing and speech; and

WHEREAS, pediatric stroke effects each child differently and it is known that early detection and awareness can improve outcomes and increased awareness eases the social burden on survivors as they adjust to the impacts of pediatric stroke; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish is fortunate to have a local survivor and advocate for pediatric stroke awareness in Ava Sophia Candler, who suffered a stroke in utero, leading to a premature birth and many challenges in her infancy, culminating in a diagnosis of cerebral palsy spastic hemiplegia. Candler has undergone a decade of occupational and physical therapy, and numerous medical procedures & surgeries, even as recently as a tendon surgery a month ago. Despite this, Candler lacks fine and gross motor function of her left side and must often work twice as hard as her peers;

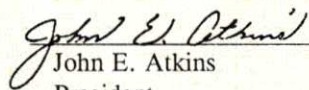
WHEREAS, Candler has chosen to work twice as hard and has become a flourishing, successful 5th grader in advanced classes who serves on student council, participates in choir, cheer squad and Girl Scouts. Candler's hard work deserves recognition in itself, and even more admirable is her desire to use her experience to increase awareness of pediatric stroke amongst teachers, parents, children and the community at large where she would like it known that pediatric stroke survivors and their families want to be accepted, understood, and treated equally by peers and adults, even when being treated equally includes needed accommodations in school and other areas of their lives.

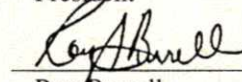
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Caddo Parish Commission, does hereby proclaim the month of May 2022 as **PEDIATRIC STROKE AWARENESS MONTH** in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and urges all citizens to join with the Parish in recognition of this important month; and

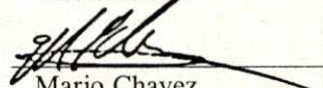
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to thank Ava Candler for her advocacy and ability to raise awareness about this important subject, commends her for her accomplishments and asks the citizens of Caddo Parish to practice acceptance and understanding of those who face challenges.

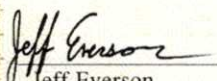
ATTEST:




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Vice President


Mario Chavez
District 10


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Commission Clerk