

State of Louisiana
Parish of Caddo
Caddo Parish Commission



In the Name and By the Authority of The
Caddo Parish Commission

SPECIAL PROCLAMATION of RECOGNITION and APPRECIATION for
VALENCIA JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes the importance of acknowledging those Caddo Parish citizens who preserved through difficult times and suffered tremendous personal sacrifice in order to improve the lives of those who would come after them and right the wrongs of those who came before them; and

WHEREAS, THE FORMER STUDENTS OF VALENCIA JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL are an excellent example of one such group of young people whose stories of sacrifice cannot be lost to time for the wrongs that caused their sacrifice continue to require correction and refining to heal mistakes of the past and lead our community unto a better future for all; and

WHEREAS, The Stoner Hill, Valencia, Westside and surrounding communities in Caddo Parish were positively impacted by the opening of Valencia Junior-Senior High School in 1964, which was built specifically for Black students despite the US Supreme Court ruling in 1954 banning segregation in public schools; and

WHEREAS, the mighty Vikings donned green & orange and competed in academics & sports as part of the Louisiana Interscholastic Athletic and Literary Organization (LIAALO), which was the governing body for Louisiana's Black High Schools. Valencia Junior-Senior High School was the only school in Caddo Parish that offered industrial career training programs in mechanical drawing, small motors, welding, and medical/nursing careers. Valencia's first seniors graduated in 1965. The last class to graduate from Valencia graduated in the spring of 1970; and

WHEREAS, As part of a school desegregation plan Valencia Junior-Senior High School transitioned to a middle school in 1970, transferring many of the students to Byrd High School, and Valencia remained a middle school until 1980 when it closed and reopened soon after as Caddo Parish Magnet High School, a transition that provided the Parish's first magnet high school and benefitted the parish as a whole, but at the expense of the community and culture of the surrounding community; and

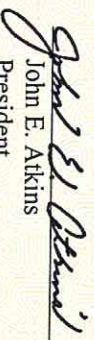
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, that it does hereby declare and recognize and proclaim June 10th, 2022 to be:

'REMEMBERING THE STUDENTS OF VALENCIA JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL DAY'


in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in recognition and admiration the tremendous sacrifice made by these young people and the lasting and important benefit that it has had on our community. The Caddo Parish Commission asks citizens to continue to remember and be aware of the many sacrifices made by people like those who attended Valencia Junior Senior High School and to honor their perseverance and contributions to our community.

ATTEST:




John E. Atkins
President


Roy Burrell
Vice President


Steven Jackson
District 03


Jeff Everson
Commission Clerk