

RESOLUTION NO. 11 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE AND RESPECT TO THE
MEMORY OF MR. WILLIE D. BURTON, JR.

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission pauses with sad fondness upon the life and works of Mr. Willie D. Burton, Jr. whose passing on January 23, 2020, marked the close of a long and productive life of civic, community, and public service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burton was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, graduating from the historic Booker T. Washington High School in 1962. He continued his education and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Southern University and a Master of Arts Degree from North Carolina Central University; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance and power of each individual's vote, Mr. Burton participated in civil rights marches for voter registration and school desegregation in 1960s; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burton offered himself to public service where he served as a member of the Caddo Parish School Board—District 3 for two decades, from January 1991 until his resignation in his sixth term in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burton was also an author, researcher, and history professor at Southern University in Shreveport for 44 years, retiring a year after resigning from the Caddo Parish School Board. His research and memorabilia is still housed at the school in the Willie Burton Musueam at the Leonard C. Barnes Administration Building; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burton authored "On the Black Side of Shreveport: A History", which tells the story of the history and contribution of African-Americans in Shreveport. He also authored "The Blacker the Berry: A Black History of Shreveport"

WHEREAS, Mr. Burton is warmly remembered by many current and past associates and friends as a man with a warm, compassionate, and helpful spirit, as well as a strong and purposeful resolve to make a difference on behalf of his community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission does express its deepest sense of sorrow and loss upon the passing of **Mr. Willie D. Burton, Jr.** conveying herein its most sincere expressions of sympathy and condolence to his family and friends, who can be consoled in the knowledge of his lasting contributions and achievements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall become effective immediately.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date