

RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE OF CLARENCE MELVIN RAY

WHEREAS, Clarence Melvin Ray was born June 6, 1939 in Raytown, Mississippi, to Clarence Greaves Ray and Joycie Vance Ray, and lived a full, blessed and bountiful life of 82 years, and;

WHEREAS, Clarence Melvin Ray, affectionately known as “Ray Ray” to his family, is survived by his wife of 57 years, Ruth Brooks Ray, and by two children, Jeffrey Ray and Leigh Ann Irby; two grandchildren, Cole Irby (Bailey), and Leah Brooke Irby (Brayden Brumfield); and by a host of siblings and beloved nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Clarence Ray attended Holmes Community College, and the University of Southern Mississippi, receiving degrees in accounting, education, and masters degrees in business and school administration; and

WHEREAS, Clarence Ray returned to Madison County and applied his talents and educational acumen towards the benefit of the county by serving in several capacities within its school system, such as becoming the Assistant Superintendent of Madison County School for 20 years, and also serving as Superintendent of Madison County Schools for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with the county school system Clarence Ray was responsible for the construction and improvement to several school buildings such as the Madison Central High School and Madison Avenue Elementary School, among others, and offered invaluable guidance and leadership during the difficult and decades-long period of court ordered integration of schools in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Clarence Ray was active in the community and at his church, serving as an active member of the Lion’s Club for 53 years, as a member of the Region 8 Mental Health Services Board of Commissioners, and as deacon, officer, and Sunday School teacher at the First Baptist Church in Canton; and

WHEREAS, Clarence Ray also served the State of Mississippi, by serving as a certified instructor in Alcohol Safety classes for driver’s who were cited under DUI laws of the state; and undoubtedly saved many lives by doing so; and

WHEREAS, Clarence Melvin Ray rendered great and untiring service to Madison County, it is fitting that the Board of Supervisors of Madison County would honor such a blessed and productive life by authorizing a Resolution honoring the life of Superintendent Ray.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Madison County Board of Supervisors approves, authorizes and passes a Resolution honoring the life of the “citizen-servant”, Clarence Melvin Ray, who served as county school Superintendent, and in other capacities within county school system of Madison County for over thirty (30)

years, and, in doing so, he blessed the lives of future generations, and of everyone who came to know him.

The Board of Supervisors adopts this Resolution and authorizes the board President to sign it, and directs that said Resolution be placed upon and that it become a part of the official Minutes of the Madison County Board of Supervisors, and that a copy of the Resolution be provided to the family of Clarence Melvin Ray.

Upon Motion made by Supervisor _____, and seconded by Supervisor _____ this Motion was Unanimously Approved by the Madison County Board of Supervisors on the _____ day of July, 2021.

Karl Banks
President, Madison County Board of Supervisors