

**RESOLUTION NO. 85 OF 2014**

**A RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. ISAAC GREGGS A NATIVE OF SHREVEPORT AND THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONALLY KNOWN SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECTTHERETO.**

**BY: COUNCILMAN SAM JENKINS**

**WHEREAS**, Isaac Ben Greggs was born in Shreveport on January 2, 1929; graduated from Central Colored High School in Shreveport; and, from Southern University A&M Collage in Baton Rouge earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in music after being admitted to Southern University at age fifteen; and

**WHEREAS**, Isaac Ben Greggs earned the Master of Science Degree in Music Education from Vander Cook Collage in Chicago Illinois, and a Doctorate in Music from the University of Peru; and

**WHEREAS**, after being drafted in the United States Army, Isaac Ben Greggs became a member of the Army Band, 4<sup>th</sup> Division, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry, where playing reveille at sunrise was a part of his duty assignment; and

**WHEREAS**, after military service, Isaac Ben Greggs taught and directed bands at Notre Dame High School and J.S. Clark Junior High, both in Shreveport, and he played “gigs” in clubs and in other venues in the greater Shreveport area; and

**WHEREAS**, Isaac Ben Greggs and his family moved to Baton Rouge in 1965 where he taught and directed the band at the Southern University Laboratory School; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1969 Isaac Ben Greggs was named Director of the Southern University Marching Band, a position he held for 36 years, before retiring in 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, under Dr. Greggs tenure the Southern University Marching Band was called “The Human Jukebox” by students because of the band’s bold sound and extensive repertoire of music; and

**WHEREAS**, under Dr. Greggs leadership the Southern University Marching Band was invited to perform at many national and international events, including six Super Bowls, four Sugar Bowls and three presidential inaugurations; and

**WHEREAS**, James L. Llorens, the chancellor of Southern University’s Baton Rouge Campus has been quoted as saying the following about Dr. Greggs: “What he created with our marching band drew thousands of students to Southern University and left fans of the band in cities from Los Angeles to Houston to New York City”, however “the true testament of his leadership is reflected not only in the number of students who have become band directors and musicians of note around the country, but the multitude of former band members who, through the dedication and commitment instilled in them by Dr. Griggs, became leaders in their respective chosen careers outside of music”; and

**WHEREAS**, Sam Jenkins, a former Southern University Student Government Association President and current Shreveport City Councilman, has been heard to say: “Because Isaac Greggs’ was an extraordinary musician, a creative showman and a master teacher, his Southern University Marching Band defined the genera: It was kinetic energy gliding across the football field. With bold balanced sound, straight lines and high, quick, crisp precision steps, the band moved into accurate and complicated formations, including the football games half-time score which always drew a thundering roar from fans, as loud as did Southern’s final winning score”; and

**WHEREAS**, Isaac Ben Greggs who died on April 28, 2014, at age 85, leaves to cherish his memory and proud legacy his loving wife of 58 years, Rose Audry Metoyer Greggs, devoted children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, former Southern University Marching Band members, Southern University students, faculty and alumni, and fans from across this nation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Shreveport in due regular and legal session convened, that the City Council pauses to commemorate the life and accomplishments of Dr. Isaac Ben Greggs a native of Shreveport and the former Director of the nationally known Southern University Marching Band.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Shreveport City Council recognizes Dr. Isaac Ben Greggs proud legacy: He improved the quality of life of thousands, if not millions, of persons across this nation who saw the Southern University Band perform, and he instilled in his band members attributes and traits that constitute the formula for success in every profession.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be signed by each member of the City Council, and executed in duplicate originals with one original presented to Mrs. Rose Audry Metoyer Greggs, and the other original filed in perpetuity in the office of the Clerk of Council for the City of Shreveport.

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Joe Shyne, Chairman  
Council District F

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Rose Wilson-McCulloch.  
Council District A

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Jeff Everson  
Council District B

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Oliver Jenkins  
Council District C

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Ron A. Webb  
Council District E

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Michael Corbin  
Council District D

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Sam L. Jenkins  
Council District G