



# Proclamation



**WHEREAS**, Fred James White, Jr. was born in Gilmer, Texas on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1945, the son of the late Fred James White, Sr. and the late Bernice Knight White; and

**WHEREAS**, Fred James White, Jr. began his servant career early on by joining the Gilmer Fire Department at the early age of 16, he graduated from Gilmer High School in Gilmer, Texas in 1963, attended Kilgore College for two years and then earned a Bachelor of Industrial Arts and Education from East Texas State University in 1968; and

**WHEREAS**, Fred James White, Jr. began his teaching career in 1968 in Tallulah, Louisiana at McCall Junior High coaching football and track while teaching Industrial Arts and then moved his teaching and coaching talents to West Rusk High School in New London, Texas in 1972 where he spent the next 37 years until his retirement in 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, Fred James White, Jr. joined the Overton Volunteer Fire Department in Overton, Texas in 1972 where he has served his community with honor and distinction for 48 years, as a Rescue Squad Leader, Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, President and finally as the Overton Volunteer Fire Chief from 2016 to 2020 until his passing; and

**WHEREAS**, Fred James White, Jr. was affiliated with the Texas A&M Fire School for over 40 years as a Rescue Instructor, Ropes & Knots, Instructor of Project A, Assistant Instructor over Rescue Projects, Head of Rescue, and a group Supervisor and affiliated with Texas Eastman Fire School as a Lead Instructor, Assistant Field Coordinator, and Head of Registration; and

**WHEREAS**, Fred James White, Jr. was also actively involved in the Northeast Texas Firemen Association serving as Executive Board Parliamentarian, Assistant Secretary and Secretary for the association.

**WHEREAS**, Fred James White, Jr. was a seasoned firefighter, educated, and experienced in all aspects and nuances of public service; he earned the respect of his community and all those he worked with for his commitment, not only to Overton and to Rusk County but to all of the East Texas area, his profession and service to the citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Fred James White, Jr. married the love of his life, Judy Carolyn Ward in 1968 and the two were married for 40 years. Fred James White, Jr. passed away on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020. Fred James White, Jr. is survived by his daughters, Michelle White Williams and husband Michael Paul, and Becky White Harman and husband Chris; son Fred James (Trey) White, III and wife Aubrey; sister Kimlyn White Young; grandchildren, Michael Zane Williams, Emberlie Carolyne Harman, Avalie Cherylene Harman, Wesley Noble White and Knighton Sarge Harman; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Judy White, father Fred James White, Sr, mother Bernice White, brother Grant White, Sr. and sister-in-law Margo White; and brother-in-law Billy Joe Young.

**WHEREAS**, all of East Texas mourn the sudden loss of this brave son who served to protect his fellow man and advance the common good, and sympathy on their behalf is extended to his family, loved ones, to his many friends, to members of the Overton Volunteer Fire Department family with whom he served faithfully and honorably, and to all those who knew and loved him.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED** by Mayor C. R. Evans Jr., by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Mayor of Overton, Texas do hereby **ORDER** that, in commemoration of the distinguished life and service of Fred James White, Jr., the United States flag and Texas State flag displayed at every City facility in Overton, Texas shall be lowered to half-staff from dawn to dusk on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, through the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020, the day of services celebrating his life.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the city seal of the Overton to be affixed this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.



City of Overton

***C. R. Evans, Jr.***

C.R. Evans Jr., MAYOR

***Rachél Gafford***

Rachél Gafford, TRMC, City Secretary