



SPECIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 02-2024

A SPECIAL PROCLAMATION AWARDED BY SOUTH BEND COMMON COUNCIL
PRESIDENT & THIRD DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE, SHARON MCBRIDE
KAREN L. WHITE AT LARGE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE,
AND COUNCILMAN CANNETH LEE, FIRST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE
HONORING THE “GREATEST” GENERATIONS OF SENIORS IN GREATER SOUTH
BEND.

*Let us cherish the wisdom and experience of our elders,
showing them love and reverence.*

Whereas, Blessed Gospel Magazine, on Sunday, February 18, 2024 for the ninth (9th) Year is hosting a Black History Program to Honor the “Greatest” Generations of Seniors in South Bend area at the New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in South Bend, Indiana where the Senior Pastor is Rev. Cary J. Batteast, and

Whereas We recognize the immense contributions of Black Americans to our nation’s history, culture, and progress; and

Whereas, Black history is an integral part of American history, and the stories, resilience, and triumphs of Black elders have shaped our collective identity; and,

Whereas we acknowledge that the struggle for civil rights and equality continues, and our elders remain steadfast in their advocacy; and

Whereas their lived experiences provide invaluable lessons for us all, teaching us empathy, compassion, and the importance of unity; and

Whereas, , Rev. Vertis Lee Alexander seventy-four (74) years, Mother Doris Brown seventy-nine (79) years, Deacon Johnnie Carter sixty-seven (67) years, Deaconess Bonnie Clark eighty-seven (87) years, Sister Dorothea Jones sixty (60) years, Sister Judy K. Love sixty-one (61) years, Mother Lorene Taylor eighty-four (84) years, Sister Lucy A. Harris-Wigfall seventy-two (72) years, and Mother Fannie Mae Williamson eighty-nine (89) years, were all selected as the 2024 Honorees.

Now, therefore be it Proclaimed by the South Bend Common Council, President, and Third District Representative, Sharon McBride, Council Member Karen L. White, At Large Council and First District Representative Canneth Lee

Section I. On behalf of the citizens of the City of South Bend, Indiana, and as elected members of the South Bend Common Council, we are pleased to publicly honor and to celebrate, Rev. Vertis Lee Alexander, Mother Doris Brown, Deacon Johnnie Clark, Deaconess Bonnie Clark, Sister Dorothea Jones, Sister Judy K. Love, Mother Lorene Taylor, Sister Lucy A. Harris-Wigfall, and Mother Fannie Mae Williamson, as the 2024 Blessed Gospel Magazine’s Black History Honorees.

Section II. The City of South Bend has been made my strongest because of these nine (9) outstanding citizens touching the hearts of so many individuals, youth, and families throughout



the years. Their influence continues to shine brightly in the lives of thousands of people every day.

Section III. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon it being signed and approved by, Council President & Third District Representation Sharon McBride, At Large Councilmember Karen L. White, and First District Representative, Councilman Canneth Lee

Signed and Approved this 18 Day of February 2024 in the City of South Bend, County of St. Joseph, in the State of Indiana.

Sharon L. McBride

Sharon McBride, President
South Bend Common Council

Karen L. White

Karen L. White, At-Large Council Representative
South Bend Common Council

Canneth Lee

Canneth Lee, 1st District Representative
South Bend Common Council

