A Resolution Honoring the Enduring Fortitude, Resilience and Legacy of North Texas Settler Bob Jones

WHEREAS, John Dolford "Bob" Jones came to North Texas sometime around 1859 from a farm near Fort Smith, Arkansas with his white father, Leazer Jones, slave mother, Elizabeth, and his siblings; and

WHEREAS, Bob's father purchased land in the Medlin community near today's Roanoke, and lived there with Bob's mother and their children; and

WHEREAS, in 1865, after the Civil War, Leazer set free his Black family on a hill southeast of the Jones family farm, in present-day Westlake; and

WHEREAS, Bob and his brother Jim bought 60 acres of land from their father, then started a cattle and farming operation. Later, they purchased land farther east along the now Tarrant-Denton county line, within the cities of Trophy Cub, Southlake and Grapevine; and

WHEREAS, Bob and his wife, Almeady Chisum, the bi-racial daughter of cattle baron John Chisum, became one of North Texas' largest ranching families by owning between 1,000 and 2,000 acres "free and clear," stretching from present-day north Fort Worth to beyond Grapevine Lake; and

WHEREAS, in 1902, the Jones family built Mt. Carmel Baptist Church near Southlake's Bob Jones Road and White's Chapel Boulevard; and, in 1920, built Walnut Grove School for Black children at the present site of Bob Jones Nature Center and Preserve in Southlake; and

WHEREAS, in the 1940s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers planned the Grapevine Lake and Dam project and took hundreds of acres of Jones family land by eminent domain; yet, the family persevered and, in 1948, opened a prosperous livestock sale barn in Southlake; and, in 1949, opened the Jones Café, which is thought to be the first integrated restaurant in Texas; and

WHEREAS, Bob Jones' son Jinks served in the all-Black 24th Infantry as a famed Buffalo Soldier during World War I; and his grandson, Dr. Bobby Jones, served as Tarrant County Public Health's chief epidemiologist from 1995-2005; and both descendants are examples of a continued legacy of Jones family contributions to the early settlement, economic development, environmental preservation, military protection and philanthropic offerings to Tarrant County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County, do hereby encourage all residents to recognize Black History Month by celebrating the indomitable spirit and unconquerable resolve of the Bob Jones family.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of Tarrant County to be affixed this 19th day of February 2025.