

# City of Gonzales



## State of Louisiana Proclamation

### HONORING MISS A. DENISE GRAVES FOR 44 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO ASCENSION PARISH SCHOOLS

**WHEREAS,** The foundation of a thriving community rests upon its dedication to educating and nurturing its children, and those who devote their lives to public education serve as pillars of progress, hope, and opportunity; and

**WHEREAS,** Miss A. Denise Graves has exemplified this noble calling through and extraordinary 44-year career in Ascension Parish Schools, marked by unwavering commitment, visionary leadership, and a deep passion for student success and equity; and

**WHEREAS,** A proud and long-time resident of the City of Gonzales, Miss Graves has been a trailblazer in education, making history as the first African American woman to serve as Superintendent of Ascension Parish Schools, and previously as the highest-ranking African American in the district as Assistant Superintendent; and

**WHEREAS,** She has served with distinction in numerous leadership roles, including as Principal of Gonzales Middle School, where she inspired students, empowered educators, and fostered a culture of academic excellence and community pride; and

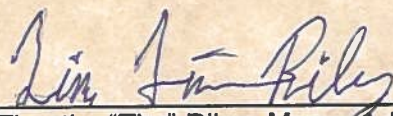
**WHEREAS,** Miss Graves has been a quiet yet powerful force behind the scenes – a trusted leader whose wisdom, humility, and steadfast dedication have left an indelible mark on generations of students, educators, and administrators; and

**WHEREAS,** Her legacy as a pioneer, mentor, and advocate for equity in education continues to uplift and inspire those who follow in her footsteps.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** be it proclaimed that we, with deep gratitude and admiration, do hereby recognize and honor Miss A. Denise Graves for her outstanding service, groundbreaking achievements, and lifelong commitment to the students and families of Ascension Parish.

Let this proclamation stand as a testament to her enduring impact and a celebration of a career that has shaped the future of education in our community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and have caused to be affixed the Official Seal of the City of Gonzales, Parish of Ascension, State of Louisiana, on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2025.

  
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Timothy "Tim" Riley, Mayor-Administrator

