

**WHEREAS,** Judge L. Clifford Davis was born in Wilton, Arkansas, in 1924, and is a living civil rights legend who fought segregation in Tarrant County school districts.

**WHEREAS,** Judge L. Clifford Davis was the first Black student to be admitted to the University of Arkansas Law School in 1948, but graduated from Howard University in 1949; and

**WHEREAS,** He became a licensed attorney in Texas in 1953, and in 1954, he moved to Fort Worth, where he was one of only two black lawyers in the city; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1956, he filed Jackson, et al. v. Rawdon in the U.S. District Court in Dallas, a suit that resulted in the desegregation of the Mansfield Independent School District. In 1959, he filed Flax, et al. v. Potts, another federal civil rights suit, which led to the desegregation of the Fort Worth Independent School District; and

**WHEREAS,** In the 1960s, he became one of the first Black lawyers to join the Tarrant County Bar Association, and in 1983, he ascended to the Texas district court bench, becoming one of the first Black state district judges in Tarrant County, where he served on the bench until 1988.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Michael Evans, Mayor of the City of Mansfield, Texas, join with the members of the City Council to hereby recognize and honor

**THE HONORABLE RETIRED JUDGE L. CLIFFORD DAVIS**

In Mansfield, and ask all residents to join in the celebration of a life devoted to fighting to fulfill the guiding principles established by our founding fathers, "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and cause the official seal of the City of Mansfield, Texas, to be affixed this 6th day of March, 2023.