

# PROCLAMATION

## HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND JESSE L. JACKSON, SR.

**MARCH 2026**

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr., civil rights leader, Baptist minister, and two-time presidential candidate, passed away peacefully on February 17, 2026, at the age of 84; and

**WHEREAS**, born in Greenville, South Carolina on October 8, 1941, Reverend Jackson rose from the constraints of segregation to become one of the most influential voices for justice, equality, and human dignity in modern American history; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Jackson answered the call to service during the Civil Rights Movement, working alongside the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and carrying forward the work of nonviolent protest, economic justice, and voting rights after Dr. King's assassination in 1968; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1971 he founded People United to Save Humanity (PUSH), later the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, advancing economic empowerment, educational opportunity, corporate accountability, and civic participation across communities of color and working families; and

**WHEREAS**, through his historic campaigns for the Democratic nomination for President in 1984 and 1988, Reverend Jackson expanded political participation, registered millions of new voters, and built a "Rainbow Coalition" grounded in the belief that people of every race, faith, and background could find common cause in the pursuit of justice; and

**WHEREAS**, his words—most notably the call to "Keep Hope Alive"—became a rallying cry for those who felt overlooked, undervalued, or unheard, and reflected his enduring belief that democracy is strongest when it includes the voices of the poor, the working class, and the marginalized; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his life, Reverend Jackson also worked beyond our borders to advocate for peace and secure the release of detained Americans, demonstrating a commitment to diplomacy grounded in human rights; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of his decades of moral leadership and public service, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2000, the nation's highest civilian honor; and

**WHEREAS**, even in the face of serious health challenges later in life, Reverend Jackson remained active in civic engagement efforts, encouraging participation in the democratic process and standing in solidarity with movements for equity and inclusion; and

**WHEREAS**, leaders across the nation have ordered flags to be lowered to half-staff in honor of his life and legacy, recognizing his lasting impact on the American conscience;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park, and the Board of Trustees do hereby **honor the life and legacy of Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr.**, and recognize his enduring contributions to civil rights, civic participation, and the ongoing pursuit of justice in our nation; and

**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that we encourage residents to reflect upon his call to build broader coalitions, expand opportunity, and strengthen democracy by ensuring that every voice is heard and every person is treated with dignity and respect.

**DATED** this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2026.

---

Vicki Scaman  
Village President

**ATTEST**

---

Christina M. Waters  
Village Clerk