

PROCLAMATION

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST'S "HEART OF OUR VILLAGES" AWARD IN HONOR OF BOB TREZEVANT

MARCH 13, 2025

WHEREAS, we are here today to express our appreciation to Robert "Bob" Trezevant, and to honor him as one of the 2025 recipients of the "Heart of Our Villages" award presented by The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest; and

WHEREAS, Bob Trezevant has been a resident of Oak Park since 1977 and has not only embraced the values of his adopted hometown—including education, inclusion, philanthropy, volunteerism, historic preservation and the importance of community—but also put them into practice and exemplified them in all his activities; and

WHEREAS, Bob Trezevant has focused on education throughout his life, from his teaching at Longfellow School and his membership in the Lowell Literary Society, to his role in the establishment of the *Wednesday Journal* local newspaper and his efforts to organize, document, and preserve the history of the Kerr/Saxby/Gervais families for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Bob Trezevant has also contributed greatly to the development of Oak Park as an inclusive community as a founding member of the Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association as well as his work on the Education First District 97 school board campaign to put the first openly gay person on the board, and as a primary source for ethnographer Jay Ruby's series "*Oak Park Stories*"; and

WHEREAS, Bob Trezevant has also been a great supporter of the arts as a founding member of the Oak Park Festival Theater and the Oak Park Concert Chorale, as a member of the Oak Park Area Arts Council, the Nineteenth Century Charitable Association, and the Oak Park Civic Symphony Chorus, and as a philanthropic contributor and volunteer with these and many other arts organizations; and

WHEREAS, Bob Trezevant, as both a volunteer and a philanthropist, has also significantly contributed to historic preservation efforts in Oak Park, including serving as a volunteer for the Unity Temple Restoration Foundation, the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, and The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest; through websites focused on history and genealogy, and through the many articles and presentations he has written and given on various aspects of Oak Park history.

NOW THEREFORE, on behalf of the Village of Oak Park, we express our sincere appreciation to Bob Trezevant for his many years of service to our community, the example he has set for activism, volunteerism, and philanthropy, and congratulate him on his selection by The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest as one of the 2025 recipients of the “Heart of Our Villages” award.

AND FURTHER, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim Thursday, March 13, 2025, as ***HEART OF OUR VILLAGES DAY*** in the Village of Oak Park in honor of Bob Trezevant, and urge all citizens to join me in supporting the efforts of The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest in recognizing the individuals whose very lives exemplify the unique characteristics and spirit of our community.

DATED this 18th day of February 2025.

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk