

1 WHEREAS, he published the news events of an under-served constituency, from
2 birth to marriage, then onto a celebration of life, *The Shreveport Sun* acknowledged the
3 happenings of African-American society and voiced the issues of civil rights, literacy, and
4 economic development that included the advertisement and promotion of minority
5 professionals and business interests; and

6 WHEREAS, in the beginning, *The Shreveport Sun* served both urban and rural
7 readerships throughout North Louisiana and portions of nearby Texas and Arkansas, being
8 sold for a nickel per copy in grocery stores, on street corners by newsboys, and later by
9 door-to-door solicitations for subscriptions; the *Sun* paved the way for more minority-owned
10 publications in the state; and

11 WHEREAS, today, *The Shreveport Sun* enjoys both national and international
12 circulation; and

13 WHEREAS, from its humble origin located in the heart of the Avenue Business
14 District, the *Sun* survived financially on advertisement space sold to small, minority-owned
15 businesses such as physicians, dentists, funeral homes, and merchants; and

16 WHEREAS, the *Sun* survived overt opposition and threats through the sheer courage,
17 conviction, pride, and stubbornness of Mr. M. L. Collins Sr.; and

18 WHEREAS, his legacy remains one of enlightenment and hope; and

19 WHEREAS, in its illustrious history, the *Sun* glistens with numerous journalism and
20 public service awards including the Ann Brewster Award for outstanding journalism, the
21 African American Arts Council patron of the arts award, and recognition as the second
22 oldest minority-owned business in continuous operation in the Shreveport area; and

23 WHEREAS, *The Shreveport Sun* marks November 6, 2020, as its one hundredth
24 anniversary and celebrates over five thousand editions having missed only one due to a
25 disabled printing press; and

26 WHEREAS, during the turbulent 1960s as voting issues and civil rights emerged as
27 major factors in African-American life, the *Sun* was at the forefront to offer up concise
28 journalism and perspective; and

29 WHEREAS, in 1962, Melvin Lee Collins Jr., assumed the mantle of editorial
30 responsibility from his father and continued in his footsteps to protect and support freedom

1 of speech until 1983; and

2 WHEREAS, Sonya Collins Landry, daughter of M. L. Collins Jr., ascended to her
3 leadership role in 1983 and her tenure has wrought continued progress and prosperity for the
4 newspaper; and

5 WHEREAS, *The Shreveport Sun* was founded on November 6, 1920 and its golden
6 anniversary theme is "2020 Vision"; and

7 WHEREAS, in anticipation of this most auspicious event, the *Sun* and Shreve
8 Memorial Library have partnered to present the Black History Month 2020 Lecture Series
9 throughout the month of February; and

10 WHEREAS, these lecturers shall discuss different aspects of African-American
11 history and create a forum for the exchange of ideas and goals for continued growth within
12 the community; the populace of Caddo Parish looks forward to a brighter future with
13 expanded cultural horizons and economic possibilities; and

14 WHEREAS, the credo of minority publishing has stood the test of time and rings true
15 in today's sociopolitical environment: "*The Black Press believes that America can best lead*
16 *the world away from racial and national antagonism when it accords to every man,*
17 *regardless of race, creed, or color, his human and legal rights; hating no man, fearing no*
18 *man, the Black Press strives to help every man in the firm belief that all men are hurt as long*
19 *as anyone is held back.*"

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
21 commend and congratulate the owners, editors, and staff of *The Shreveport Sun* for its good
22 works, extraordinary journalism, and integrity, and does hereby recognize its lengthy history
23 of service to the community of Shreveport as an agent for positive change.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
25 Sonya Collins Landry of *The Shreveport Sun*.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Suzi Montague.

SCR 6 Original

DIGEST
2020 Regular Session

Peacock

Commends *The Shreveport Sun* on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.