



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Dr. Rance Thomas is a dedicated educator, a devoted servant and committee community advocate; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas retired from the U.S. Air Force after 20 years of service. He received a B.S. in General Studies at the University of Nebraska, an M.A in Sociology, and earned a PH.D. in Sociology with a concentration in criminology, complex organizations, and race relation; and

WHEREAS, He was the first Professor Emeritus for Lewis & Clark Community College. He has served as the President of the Faculty Association and of the Association's Higher Education Council and as member of the Illinois National Education Association Higher Association Board. In his tenure he organized a Mentoring Program for Minorities Students, served as coordinator of the Student Achievement Committee and was involved in the College establishing a Minority Committee. The College has since established a continuing Dr. Rance Thomas Scholarship Award for Criminal Justice Students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas is an ordained Elder in the Presbyterian Church USA and is a member of John Knox Presbyterian Church in Florissant, MO. He serves on two Committees in the Giddings Lovejoy Presbytery. He was elected to serve as Moderator of the Synod of Mid-America for one year which consisted of more than 500 churches in Illinois, Missouri, and Southern Kansas, and has served as Chair of a number of Committees. He was cofounder of North County Churches Uniting for Racial Harmony and Justice (NCCU) in 1998 and has served as President since its inception. It consists of 27 churches of various denominations in North St. Louis County including four in Ferguson; and

WHEREAS, He has offered his wisdom to the masses by serving on a plethora boards and as chair of many committees. Dr. Thomas has received numerous awards for outstanding citizenship, community development, dedication, devotion, education, human relations, human and civil rights, leadership, living legend, peacemaking, service, and loyalty. He was inducted into the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Hall of Fame in 2009. He has received Dr. King's Drum Major Award, the Lewis & Clark Community College Minority Affairs Award, the Annie Malone Children and Family Service Award, the St. Andrew's Resources Ageless Remarkable St. Louisans Award, and the Christian Hospital Legacy Leadership Award; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, he received the Sustaining our Community Award from North County Incorporated, the Silver Beaver Award from the Greater St. Louis Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Founding Board Member Award from The Coalition of Concerned Citizens of Alton, a Hazelwood School District Leadership Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award from Hazelwood School District. He was inducted into the International Educator's Hall of Fame in 2017. In 2018, St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley established a continuing Dr. Rance Thomas Community Partnership Award and presented him the first award. He also received an Order of Merit Award from the St. Louis Metropolitan Urban League in 2018. In 2019 he received the Hazelwood School District's Community Partnership Award. He received the 2007 Missouri House of Representative's Community Development Award, and was awarded with Marquis Who' Who Humanitarian Award 2020 to name just a few.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ella M. Jones, Mayor of the City of Ferguson, Missouri, on behalf of the Ferguson City Council, hereby congratulates Dr. Rance Thomas On Being Selected As The Zykan Family Legacy Award

PROCLAIMED this _____ day of _____, 2021.
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand
and caused the Seal of the City of Ferguson to be
affixed.

Ella M. Jones, Mayor

Attest:

Octavia Pittman, City Clerk