



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

GENO JONES DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Mr. Geno M. Jones, a beloved resident of the City of Tupelo, departed this life on Saturday, December 28, 2024, leaving behind a remarkable legacy of faith, music, education and service; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished life, Mr. Jones faithfully used his God-given gifts as an accomplished pianist, vocalist, educator and mentor, earning local and national recognition for his exceptional musical talent and his commitment to music education; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones devoted 28 years of service to the Tupelo Public School District, investing in the lives of students, providing compassionate care, encouragement, and support while instilling values that extended far beyond the classroom. He also faithfully served for more than 20 years as the musician for Tupelo High School's Black History Program, accompanying and inspiring the renowned THS Black Voices; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Mr. Jones co-founded Geno Jones & Focus, a gospel ensemble whose inspiring blend of traditional and contemporary gospel music; and

WHEREAS, as music director of Geno Jones & Focus, Mr. Jones became a cherished fixture throughout northeast Mississippi, performing at banquets, weddings, church services, gospel concerts, and numerous community events, an enduring commitment that contributed to the ensemble receiving the 2018 Image Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones was honored with opportunities to lead his ensemble in performances alongside and in opening for distinguished artists and leaders, including the Mississippi Mass Choir, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Donnie McClurkin, Kirk Franklin, Dolly Parton, Yolanda Adams, Vickie Winans, and the late Nell Carter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones, through his leadership and participation in events such as the Tupelo Community Forward Festival, the Juneteenth Tupelo Freedom Celebration, the Tupelo/Lee County NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, the UNCF Banquet, and many others, strengthened relationships, inspired collaboration, and enriched the cultural life of our city; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tupelo has been immeasurably blessed by the life and service of Mr. Geno M. Jones.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Todd Jordan, Mayor of the City of Tupelo, Mississippi, do hereby proclaim August 1st, 2026, as Geno Jones Day in the City of Tupelo, honoring Mr. Jones for his long-standing service to the city and its citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Tupelo to be affixed on this day, July 21, 2026.

ATTEST:

Todd Jordan, Mayor

Kim Hanna, City Clerk