



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

LESLIE PURVIS TALLY

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Lawhon Elementary School teacher, Leslie Tally was named the 2021 Mississippi Teacher of the Year by the Mississippi Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tally decided in Kindergarten to become a teacher, and she never swayed from that decision, her inspiration is rooted in the influence of other educators early in her life - most influentially was her father, who retired from a career that spanned forty-seven years as a teacher and coach; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tally believes all children deserve the opportunity to develop cognitively, socially, emotionally, and physically in a risk-free learning environment; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tally's greatest contributions and accomplishments in education stem from her drive to enhance her own instruction for her students and also share what she has learned with fellow teachers, particularly in the area of literacy; and

WHEREAS, after teaching third grade and first grade, Mrs. Tally taught in a program that provided explicit phonics in instruction for students with dyslexic tendencies. It was during this time that she found her true niche in education: supporting literacy development by providing systematic, multi-sensory instruction; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tally developed an entire phonics sequence of instruction and corresponding materials for her grade level. Most recently, at Lawhon Elementary School, she has established a specialized Reading Foundations class to support struggling readers; organized a virtual readers theater; created fluency educational materials to share in the community; and created a "Breakfast Book Club" to develop reading fluency; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tally has fostered community relationships by orchestrating an annual "Open Door Days," in her classroom, and she is an active member of First Baptist Church of Tupelo. Her community involvement extends to reach an online community as well; Mrs. Tally constructed a literacy-based website, *Tally Tales Literacy*, where she supports literacy instruction through blog posts and digital resources she creates. Her materials and products have been implemented into district curricular resources and classrooms throughout the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jason L. Shelton, Mayor of the City of Tupelo, Mississippi, do hereby proclaim May 21, 2021 as

LESLIE PURVIS TALLY DAY

in the city of Tupelo, and I do hereby encourage all citizens to recognize and celebrate her contributions and accomplishments in education.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Tupelo, Mississippi to be affixed this the 18th day of May, 2021.

Jason L. Shelton, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kim Hanna, City Clerk