

**Proclamation
For
Three Outstanding Football Players of
Addie E. McFarland High School**

**“McFarland Bears”
Joe Lawrence Tave, Marvin Sampson and Alfred Tennyson**

WHEREAS, African Americans have contributed much to our community and Black History, and we recognize and celebrate our hometown heroes of Addie E. McFarland High School in Mineola TX.

WHEREAS, Mr. Tave, Mr. Sampson and Mr. Tennyson attended an all-black high school, they were all graduates of Addie E. McFarland and played football under the direction of the awesome Coach R.L. Gregory.

WHEREAS, they attended the Hall of Honor and Hall of Fame Banquet in Houston, Tx. They were inducted into the Prairie View Interscholastic League of Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Tara Sampson, granddaughter of Marvin Sampson, stepped in to receive his award. It was a great night, and they were truly honored.

WHEREAS, Joe Lawrence “Slow Motion” Tave was born March 1945 in Mineola, TX to the late James H. and Thelma Giles Tave. Joe graduated from McFarland High School, Mineola, Texas in May of 1965. Tave was a three-year letterman, team captain, played center his sophomore year and left guard his last two seasons in 1963 and 1964. Tave, his brother Otis Tave, and Samuel Bryant comprised the left offensive line for two years and during the 1963 State 1-A Championship in Smithville, TX, through the fall of 1964, his senior season. Coach Gregory tagged him “Slow Motion” as he appeared to be barely moving while running. Mr. Tave furthered his education attending Wiley College in Marshall, TX. He transferred to East Texas University Commerce. He has a BS in Pre-Law/Political Science and Sociology, MS in Counseling and Student Personal. He was an Educator and Businessman he retired after 25 years.

WHEREAS, Marvin “Duckey” Howard Sampson was born September 19th, 1943, in Ardmore, PA to the late Howard and Mary Jane Walton Sampson. Marvin graduated from Addie E. McFarland High School in May of 1962. Sampson was a star running back and part of the team that won the state championship in 1961. Playing football was a great passion of his. He especially loved being part of a team and winning. He was also a member of the marching band where he played the trumpet, his favorite instrument. Mr. Sampson earned a scholarship to attend Prairie View College which is now Prairie View A&M University. He was employed by GE/Trane Technologies Tyler, TX where he worked 39 years before retiring.

WHEREAS, Alfred Lloyd “Bubba” Tennyson was born September 1946 in Mineola, TX to the late Othie and Mildred Brinkley Tennyson. Alfred graduated from McFarland High School in May of 1966. He was a quarterback for McFarland from 1964 to 1965. The fall of 1965 was the last season for McFarland as a part of PVIL, before desegregation would lead to the shutdown of the school and all

students moved to Mineola High School the fall of 1966. Another brilliant field general, Tennyson was engulfed with talent in backfield, led by backs Johnny Bigham, Cecil Tuck, and Darwin Stephens. Tennyson was great at play calling, reading defenses, passing two talented ends Otis Tave and Rufus Jackson. Upon graduating from McFarland High School, the last class to do so, Mr. Tennyson spent several years in the US Air Force where he served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. He attended Tyler Junior College and had a professional career with GE/Trane Technologies Tyler, TX, where he worked 38 years before retiring.

WHEREAS, we appreciated what these men have accomplished during their time at Addie E. McFarland and for the City of Mineola they will all have always have a special place in our hearts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT THE CITY OF MINEOLA, TEXAS designates the 27th day of November as MCFARLAND BEARS ATHLETES' DAY for all football players and three Hall of Famers Joe Lawrence Tave, Marvin Howard Sampson and Alfred Lloyd Tennyson and we urge our citizens to join in unity and honor them.

Jayne Lankford, Mayor

Attest by Cindy Karch, City Secretary

