



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

August 9, 2024

The Family of James Francies, Jr.

Dear Francies Family:

As Governor of Texas, I offer my heartfelt condolences on the passing of James Francies. He held a special place in the hearts of many, and he will no doubt be missed.

Figuratively and literally, James was a trailblazer. Founding the first African American Trail Ride in Prairie View, James mentored a new generation of cowboys and uncovered a hidden part of history for the general public. Moreover, James was a thorough historian, conducting decades' worth of research on African American history in the West and Southwest. He was a passionate, generous man, and I know you are all quite proud of him.

Times of loss are by no means easy, but I know you will find comfort in the legacy James leaves behind and in your many cherished memories of him. During this season of mourning and hereafter, know that Texas shares in your grief and celebrates the remarkable life of James Francies, Jr.

First Lady Cecilia Abbott and I lift up your family in prayer, today and in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Greg" being particularly prominent.

Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas