



Resolution in Honor of James Francies, Jr.



*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your
good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
Matthew 5:16*

WHEREAS, James Francies, Jr. was born on June 30, 1930, in Houston, Texas, and throughout his 94 years, he exemplified dedication, courage, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Francies served his country honorably as a member of the United States Army, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to the values of service and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, upon his return, Mr. Francies embarked on a remarkable journey that led to the founding of the Prairie View Trail Riders Association (PVTRA) in 1957, alongside his esteemed colleagues Myrtis Dightman, Sr. and Dr. A.N. Poindexter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Francies, as the first Black trail boss, paved the way for others, breaking down barriers and creating opportunities for marginalized communities to embrace and celebrate their rich Western heritage; and

WHEREAS, under his visionary leadership, the PVTRA became the mother of all Black trail rides, inspiring the formation of other Black trail riding associations and fostering a spirit of unity and pride among all; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Francies was a historian and guardian of Black Western heritage, dedicating his life to preserving the stories of Black cowboys, Buffalo Soldiers, and others whose contributions had been overlooked or forgotten by history; and

WHEREAS, his work extended beyond the trail, as he actively engaged in Black History programs and inspired young Black Americans to pursue careers in agriculture, rodeo, and other fields critical to our community's future; and

WHEREAS, his life and legacy have left an indelible mark on the Prairie View community, the broader Western heritage, and the hearts of all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Francies' passing on July 27, 2024, has left a profound void, but his spirit, vision, and leadership continue to guide and inspire us;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that we, the members of the Prairie View Trail Riders Association, along with his family, friends, and community, do hereby honor and celebrate the life and legacy of James Francies, Jr.; and

Be it further resolved, that we commit to carrying forward his vision, ensuring that the trail he blazed remains open for future generations to ride, learn, and thrive; and

Be it finally resolved, that this resolution be presented to the family of James Francies, Jr. as a token of our deep appreciation and enduring respect for a life well-lived and a legacy that will never be forgotten.

Adopted this day, August 23, 2024, at the Greater Macedonia Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.

Prairie View Trail Ride Association

Myrtis Dightman, Jr., Trail Boss

Ron Turner, Sr., Asst. Trail Boss

Paul Jackson, Asst. Trail Boss