

City of Marksville

503 N. MAIN STREET / PHONE 318-253-9500 / MARKSVILLE, LA 71351

DR. RICHARD R. MICHEL, MAYOR



COUNCIL MEMBERS:

JOHN ED LABORDE
District 1

PRESTON J. BAUDIN,
District 2

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District 3

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District 4

HAROLD L. HARDWICK,
District 5
(Mayor Pro-Tem)

HUNTER DAUZAT, SEC. TREAS.
MICHAEL F. KELLY,
CITY ATTORNEY
MEETING 2ND TUESDAY,
MONTHLY
AT 6:30 P.M.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the City of Marksville is ever mindful of and desires to give proper recognition to the people of our city who have gained the respect of fellowmen; and

WHEREAS, the Bethune High School-Marksville Colored High School Reunion Committee has chosen to honor the school's first principal, Mr. D. A. Jordan, with a series of activities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jordan has unselfishly expended the most productive years of his life developing and improving the minds, hearts and consciences of the young men and women of this community; and

WHEREAS, he has eagerly worked with every program impressed with civic betterment and religious upgrading, and in so doing, has deservedly earned the everlasting respect and gratitude of his superiors, employees, associates and students; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his educational, civic, religious and cultural contributions to the many people he has touched in his public and private life, he is to be honored by the School Reunion Committee at a reception; and

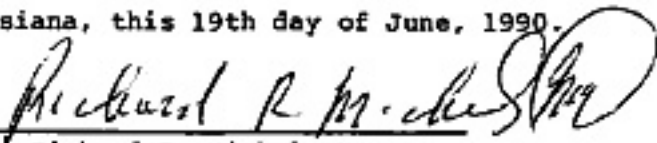
WHEREAS, it is only fitting that we pause to give proper recognition to his outstanding contributions to the welfare of this community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DR. RICHARD R. MICHEL, in virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Marksville, Louisiana, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 1, 1990, as

"D. A. JORDAN DAY"

in the City of Marksville and I urge all residents of the city to lend proper observance to this day in a manner befitting the occasion and in keeping with the distinguished career of its honored citizen.

Marksville, Louisiana, this 19th day of June, 1990.


Dr. Richard R. Michel, Mayor
City of Marksville

D. A. JORDAN DAY VESPER SERVICE

July 1, 1990

Master of Ceremonies.....Mr. Walter C. Rogers
Prelude.....Soft Music
Processional.....Honoree and Family
Invocation.....Rev. B. C. Hinkston
Greetings.....Representative - BHS Class of 1960
Mrs. Nola R. Whittington
Greetings.....Dr. Richard R. Michel, M. D. - Mayor
City of Marksville
Solo.....Mrs. Louvenia Charles
Tribute.....Dr. Merlin Augustine, Jr., Ph.D.
Presentation of Speaker.....Minister
Solo.....Mr. Paul Desselle
Speaker.....Rev. Charles E. Guillory
Comments.....[one-minute, maximum per person]

Family Member(s)
Friend(s)
Former Faculty Member(s)
Student(s)

Presentations.....Mr. Clarence Jones
.....Mrs. Louise Pierre
Special Remarks.....Honoree - Mr. D. A. Jordan
Benediction.....Rev. Charles E. Guillory

(Everyone is invited to the Reception)

RECEPTION.....MARKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA



D. A. JORDAN, Principal, Retired
REFLECTIONS

In September 1936, I was informed by Mr. C. E. Laborde, Superintendent of Avoyelles Parish School, to come to Marksville to assume the principalship of what was to be later known as the Marksville Colored High School.

My career began with meager facilities and a small staff of teachers, namely; Mrs. Mary Levee, Mrs. Thelma Desselle and Mrs. Antee Desselle. Later, in 1938, Mrs. Florence D. Small and Mrs. Hattie D. Lyons joined the faculty.

The position, as principal, was a struggle as well as a challenge. For many years I was principal, teacher and basketball coach. My task was not easy; for years there were few books, no library, no science laboratory and no transportation for students. In many cases students, who came from outlying areas, had the problem of finding a place to live in the community. Those students, who had to struggle in order to get a high school education throughout the 30's and 50's can appreciate what life means to them in this day and time.

In spite of all the inconveniences we had to endure, the students were impressed to do their best at whatever task they attempted.

I must say throughout the thirty-five years as principal I have given much of myself in order that youth would be qualified for the future.

It fills my heart with pride when I meet many graduates from the Marksville Colored High and Mary Bethune High in such fields as science, mathematics, government, home economics, theology, and athletics.

We, the faculty of the Marksville Colored High School and Bathune High School, tried to send students out into the world with an unwritten motto working in their hearts "not for self but for others".

AN AVOYELLES PROFILE



Here's a story of a person who found for himself a very good place in life, when he decided to settle in Avoyelles Parish.

Mr. D. A. Jordan, who was born in Boyce, Louisiana on December 7, 1908, came to Avoyelles to teach in the parish in 1937, and he must have liked it here for he stayed in the parish, making his way from teacher to principalship of a high school, to Director of ESAA in the Title VII Federal Program, and as educator for some 39 years. He has recently retired and is now enjoying a much deserved rest.

But Mr. Jordan, since retirement, is very busy. His career and professional activities include his membership in the local, state and national Principals' Association as well as local, state and national Teachers' Association.

His civic activities included membership on the

Board of Directors of Avoyelles Progress Action Committee, Inc., and advisor for many community organizations within Marksville.

His political activities include membership in the Voters League as well as being instrumental in organizing the first voter registration drive in the area.

He has numerous religious affiliations. He is Assistant Superintendent of the Church School; Deacon of First Baptist Church and Chairman of the Building Program.

Mr. Jordan's honors include Vice-President of the Eighth District Teachers Association; Chaplain of the State Classroom Teachers Association; member of the Board of Directors for Hospitals in the Eighth District; Chairman of the Red Cross Chapter in the Marksville community and member of the Tax Committee as well as member of the City Planning Committee of Marksville.

He retired on June 30, 1975 from the Avoyelles Parish School System after thirty-nine years of active service, four years of which he served as Director of Title VII Program, which is ESAA. He is widely known throughout the parish, state and nation for his contributions in the civic and religious areas.

He and his wife have enhanced the lives of their children and each child has become a productive human being. From their family unit they have inspired a pharmacist, a mechanical draftsman and an architectural draftsman, and they have a daughter who is a freshman in college.

Coming from a large family of nine children, consisting of five sons and four daughters, he lived in a farming district.

He entered elementary school in Rapides Parish and upon completion, he attended high school and afterwards received his B.S. degree from Leland College in Baker, La.

On March 16, 1937, his services were requested in Longbridge in Avoyelles Parish and his first job consisted of teaching grades first through eighth in a one room school. In September of the same year, due to his success in Longbridge, he became the first male principal of the Marksville Colored High School where he remained for 35 years. Eventually the school was renamed Mary Bethune, rebuilt and moved to its present site.

On November 22, 1941, he married Miss Sadie Barton and from that union four children were born: Elias Ralph Jordan, Lionel Benjamin Jordan, Peter

Arnold Jordan and Marsha Faye Jordan.

In 1952, Mr. Jordan received his Masters Degree in Educational Administration from Texas Southern Univ. in Houston, Texas. He has also attended special study programs at both Southern Univ. and Prairie View College.

"Life consists in betting on your power to do - to climb - to become" for Mr. Jordan, also "to give - to serve." He has done well and will continue to contribute, for there is still much to be done at present and in the future.

None of us are without some gift, besides the great gift of life itself. Who then cannot find much within himself with which, and for which, to render thanks to God.



Deceased: 10-98

D. A. JORDAN