

January 15, 2011 – **MAYOR GLOVER ISSUES STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF MISS MISSISSIPPI WINN – SHREVEPORT’S OLDEST CITIZEN, THE NATION’S OLDEST AFRICAN AMERICAN AND 7<sup>th</sup> OLDEST PERSON IN THE WORLD**

With deep sorrow Shreveport Mayor Cedric B. Glover issues this statement on the passing of Miss Mississippi Winn, the city’s oldest citizen, the nation’s oldest African-American and the 7<sup>th</sup> oldest person in the world. She was 113 years old.

Born on March 31, 1897, Miss Mississippi Winn’s birthday was celebrated throughout the City of Shreveport with community and religious leaders, family, friends and residents who all proudly shared in the joy of Miss Winn’s celebration of life. Since her 110<sup>th</sup> birthday, each year Mayor Glover took great pride in proclaiming March 31<sup>st</sup> as “Miss Mississippi Winn Day” in the City of Shreveport, urging all citizens to join in the celebration of her life, longevity and her many contributions.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with Miss Winn’s family, relatives, her beloved Pastor Clarence Hicks and her church family and friends who all loved and cherished her,” said Mayor Glover. “Our hearts are heavy, but we are extremely thankful for the time that Miss Winn gave to our City, for the lives that she touched and for the time that we shared with her in genuine and heartfelt fellowship. Her gentle spirit, her kindness and that beautiful twinkle in her eye will never be forgotten. It was a blessing to know Miss Winn and an honor to have the opportunity to recognize this outstanding woman whose life, struggles and successes are apart of the fabric of our City.”

Miss Winn was the highlight last month, of the National Gerontology Research Group’s website and world-wide publication. [www.grg.org](http://www.grg.org) “I began charting Miss Winn’s birthday’s many years ago,” said Robert Young, GRG Senior Claims Researcher. “At that time she was “just a young’n” on the GRG list and I thought it was time for Miss Winn to get a little more attention. I checked census records and also found that Miss Winn was indeed the last person in America born to parents who were enslaved. I am deeply saddened by her passing.”

Over the years, Miss Winn has received congratulatory recognitions from President Barack Obama, U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu and David Vitter, U.S. Representative John Fleming, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal and Senators and Representatives of Louisiana’s Northwest Delegation.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

**Brief Biographical Information**

Mississippi “Sweetie” Winn was born March 31, 1897

She was the sixth child of eight siblings, a sister died at the age of 100 years old

Her father named her Mississippi, but her mother always called her Sweetie

Her favorite hobby was sewing and her favorite book was the Bible

Her favorite scripture was Psalms 121:2 “Be ye kind to one another.”

Miss Winn was a domestic worker

After residing in Seattle, Washington for about 18 years she returned to Shreveport in 1975 after the death of her youngest sister

Last year (2010) Miss Winn was honored by her church, Avenue Baptist Church, as its oldest member charting eighty-three (83) years of faithful service

Miss Winn never married, she had no children. A great-niece Mrs. Mary C. Hollins and a great-nephew Donald W. Jackson live in Shreveport. Her great-great nephew, Pastor Brian Hollins is a retired Assistant Chief of the Shreveport Fire Department.

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