



CITY OF SHREVEPORT  
MAYOR TOM ARCENEUX

**For Media Inquiries Only:**

Leigh Anne Evensky

**Communications Director**

Leigh.Evensky@ShreveportLa.gov

318-205-4993

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**MAYOR ARCENEUX HONORS THE LEGACY OF REVEREND H. CALVIN AUSTIN, III**

The City of Shreveport mourns the loss of Reverend H. Calvin Austin, III, a civil rights icon, pastor, and lifelong advocate for justice and unity. Reverend Austin passed away on Monday.

Reverend Austin's unwavering commitment to justice began in his youth. In 1963, at just 13 years old, he courageously led fellow students in a walkout from Booker T. Washington High School to protest police violence against churchgoers. That moment would mark the beginning of a lifetime dedicated to fighting for civil rights, equality, and dignity for all. In recognition of his contributions, he was awarded an honorary diploma from the Caddo Parish School Board in 2013 and received a formal apology from the City of Shreveport for the injustices he endured. In 2023, Reverend Austin joined others in completing the march that had been halted by violence decades before— symbolizing his enduring spirit and commitment to progress.

Born and raised in Shreveport's Allendale neighborhood, Reverend Austin's journey was shaped by a deep sense of community, faith, and perseverance. From selling newspapers as a child to engaging in the civil rights movement through the NAACP youth chapter, he became a passionate voice for change. His experiences, including wrongful imprisonment as a teenager for standing up against injustice, only strengthened his resolve.

"Reverend Calvin Austin was a man of faith, courage, and conviction. His contributions to our city and the broader fight for civil rights will never be forgotten," said Mayor Tom Arceneaux. "His legacy is one of resilience, justice, and a deep love for his community. On behalf of the City of Shreveport, I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family,

friends, and all those whose lives he touched. May we honor his memory by continuing the work he so passionately believed in.”

As we reflect on his life, let us be reminded of his belief in the power of education, the importance of voting, and the need for understanding among all people. His impact on Shreveport and beyond will be felt for generations to come.

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