



Date: September 28, 2026

The Honorable Herman J. Felton, Jr.
17th President & CEO of Wiley University
711 Wiley Avenue
Marshall, TX 75670

Re: Request for Proclamation or Resolution Honoring Deaconess Dr. Opal Lee's 100th Birthday

Dear Mr. Felton:

On behalf of Rev. Walter McDonald and the members of Baker Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Ft. Worth, Texas, we respectfully request that your office issue a Proclamation or Resolution honoring Deaconess Dr. Opal Lee in celebration of her 100th birthday and a century of extraordinary service, leadership, advocacy, and commitment to community.

Deaconess Dr. Opal Lee, affectionately known as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth," has devoted her life to advancing education, equality, faith, family, and community. Her tireless efforts helped bring national recognition to Juneteenth and contributed to the historic establishment of Juneteenth National Independence Day as a Federal Holiday.

As a long-time resident and beloved member of the Ft. Worth community, Dr. Lee's legacy extends beyond one occasion. Her life reflects the enduring power of perseverance, civic engagements, compassion, and service to others. Her 100th birthday year celebration provides a meaningful opportunity for our community and its leaders to publicly recognize the remarkable impact of her life's work.

We are planning a special **100th Birthday Celebration for Deaconess Dr. Opal Lee on Sunday, October 11, 2026, beginning with a church service at 10:00 A.M.(CST)** at Baker Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1050 East Humbolt Street, Fort Worth, TX 76104 followed by a small reception.

We would be deeply honored if the Mayor of Fort Worth, TX recognized this historic milestone by presenting a proclamation or resolution commemorating:

"The 100th Birthday and Extraordinary Legacy of Deaconess Dr. Opal Lee."

We also invite you to, if you choose, submit a virtual birthday greeting (no more than two minutes please) to be shown during the celebration,

We respectfully request that the proclamation or recognition recognize Dr. Lee's contribution to Ft. Worth, the state of Texas, the nation, and the continued advancement of freedom, equality, and community service.

The virtual birthday greeting submission deadline is October 5, 2026, and should be sent to:
bcametv@gmail.com.

Thank you for your considering this request and for joining us in honoring a remarkable woman whose life and legacy have inspired generations.

With sincere appreciation and highest regards,

Rev. Cheryl V. Cammon, Centennial Celebration Chairperson

revcheryl128@gmail.com

(682) 402-7941

Rev. Walter R. McDonald, Pastor

churchoffice@bakerchapelame.com

(817) 336-5326

1050 East Humbolt Street, Fort Worth, TX 76104 | Phone: 817-336-5326

Email: churchoffice@bakerchapelame.com

Website: www.bakerchapelamechurch.org

Rev. Walter R. McDonald, Pastor