

WHEREAS, in 1972, France Davis came to Salt Lake City with his wife Willene and their family to fulfill a one-year teaching fellowship at the University of Utah; and

WHEREAS, upon their arrival, the Davises joined Salt Lake's Calvary Baptist Church, where France would become pastor in 1974 and would serve in that position for the next 46 years; and

WHEREAS, in those 46 years, Rev. France Davis has employed his academic and spiritual scholarship, his duty to faith, his dedication to education and civil rights, and his love for others to improve and enhance the quality of life not only for his congregation, but also for residents throughout Salt Lake County and the State of Utah; and

WHEREAS, born in rural Georgia in 1946, Rev. Davis attended and graduated from the segregated Waynesboro High & Industrial School, joined the United States Air Force where he served as an aircraft mechanic, and went on to earn a B.A. degree in rhetoric from the University of California at Berkeley; B.S. degree in religion from Westminster College; M.A. degree in mass communication from the University of Utah; and Master of Ministry degree from Northwest Nazarene University; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Davis participated in the civil rights campaigns of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., including the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963, and the Selma-to-Montgomery Voting Rights Marches in 1965; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Davis has modeled a "servant attitude," asking, "What can I do for somebody else?" rather than "What's in it for me?" and, believing that "Our lives begin to end the very day we become silent about what matters to other people," Rev. Davis has engaged other denominations and government and civic leaders in his work to improve education, provide scholarships, build housing for veterans, meet the needs of underserved populations, and strengthen our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jenny Wilson, Mayor of Salt Lake County, in recognition of and appreciation for the remarkable, positive impact of France Davis on the lives and institutions around us, and in anticipation of his continued influence in our community through his writing, teaching, mentoring and friendship, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, February 4, 2020 as

Rev. France Davis Day in Salt Lake County

Adopted on this 4th day of February 2020.

Jennifer Wilson
Mayor