

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, WILLIAM JAMES "COUNT" BASIE WAS BORN IN THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK ON AUGUST 21, 1904, "THE KID FROM RED BANK" DREAMED OF BEING AN ENTERTAINER AND WAS INSPIRED, AS A YOUNGSTER BY THE ANNUAL CARNIVAL THAT CAME TO TOWN AND,

**WHEREAS**, COUNT BASIE BECAME AN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC ENTERTAINER, AND REVOLUTIONIZED THE POPULAR TWENTIETH CENTURY SWING MUSIC, AS LEADER OF THE COUNT BASIE ORCHESTRA, WHICH IS CELEBRATING ITS 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR AND STILL PLAYING TO SOLD-OUT AUDIENCES

**WHEREAS**, COUNT BASIE A NINE-TIME GRAMMY AWARD WINNER WITH FOUR OF HIS SONGS ENSHRINED IN THE GRAMMY HALL OF FAME; "ONE O'CLOCK JUMP" "APRIL IN PARIS" "EVERY DAY I HAVE THE BLUES," AND "LESTER LEAPS IN"

**WHEREAS**, COUNT BASIE SPAWNED THE MUSIC CAREERS OF MANY GREAT JAZZ MUSICIANS FROM LESTER YOUNG, BILLIE HOLIDAY AND CLARK TERRY, TO QUINCY JONES AND OTHERS, BASIE'S MUSICAL INFLUENCE LIVES ON.

**WHEREAS**, COUNT BASIE, WHOSE MUSIC CROSSED RACIAL BARRIERS AND BROUGHT ALL PEOPLE TOGETHER, ALWAYS FOUND TIME TO GIVE BACK TO HIS RED BANK COMMUNITY BY MAKING CHARITABLE APPEARANCES TO BENEFIT LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORTED AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN.

**WHEREAS**, ALL OF HUMANITY OWES A DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO WILLIAM JAMES "COUNT" BASIE FOR HIS MUSICAL DEVOTION AND QUEST TO BRING JOY INTO THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO TAPPED THEIR FEET AND DANCED TO HIS MUSIC. HIS MUSICAL AMBASSADORSHIP, AS A KENNEDY CENTER AWARD RECIPIENT, ACCLAIMED HIS GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ARTS.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, PASQUALE MENNA, MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK DO HEREBY HENCEFORTH PROCLAIM 2020: THE YEAR OF BASIE, ALONG WITH THE CITIZENS OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, I GIVE SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO THE T. THOMAS FORTUNE FOUNDATION IN ITS SALUTE TO RED BANK'S NATIVE SON. I URGE EVERYONE TO JOIN IN AND SUPPORT THE YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION OF ACTIVITIES AND OBSERVANCES HONORING COUNT BASIE.**

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PASQUALE MENNA  
MAYOR