



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

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Contact: Mike Donila Rylie McClurg
306-1177 cell 215-4579 office
705-1681 cell

Mayor Jacobs Talks About Dr. Bob Booker and ‘Read Across America Day’

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— During his Weekly Update, which will post around 10 a.m. today, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs takes time to remember the late Dr. Bob Booker, a long-time local civil rights icon.

“I was very sad to hear about the passing of Bob Booker,” Mayor Jacobs says. “Dr. Booker was an author, historian, Knoxville College graduate, a military veteran, state legislator, and co-founder of the Beck Cultural Exchange Center. Booker was active in Knoxville’s Civil Rights movement, organizing sit-ins to advance desegregation. He was an expert on Knoxville’s black history and wrote a number of books about the subject. He will be greatly missed.”

Additionally, Mayor Jacobs participated in Read Across America Day at schools throughout Knox County and in Seymour.

The mayor will continue the nation’s largest celebration of literacy by reading at the Farragut Public Library on Monday, March 4, 2024, 10:30 a.m.; at Muse Knoxville on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 2 p.m.; and at West View Elementary School also on March 7 at 4 p.m..

Read Across America, launched by the National Education Association, or NEA, in 1998 is a literary program that celebrates reading. Officials selected March 2 to kick off the event since it was Theodor Seuss Geisel’s birthday. Geisel, an American children’s author and cartoonist, was known for writing and illustrating more than 60 books under the penname Dr. Suess.

“I always enjoy a chance to see what our teachers do every day, which is see the excitement in these kids’ faces as they go on a new reading adventure,” says Mayor Jacobs. “With the success of Read City USA, and the strength of our public libraries system, our Knox County students have more chances to grow as readers, and days like this highlight our community’s dedication to literacy.”

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