MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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Mayor Jacobs to Read Across the County for Read Across America

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs has always been a strong supporter of literacy in the community. March is National Reading Month and tomorrow he will begin reading his way across the county for the fourth time to support Read Across America.

"Programs like this and Read City USA are a fun way to promote reading to young audiences," said Mayor Jacobs. "Students read a lot during their school day, it's fundamental to academic achievement, but it's also crucial for developing other important skills—like critical thinking, empathy, and social etiquette—for outside the classroom as well."

Though it is typically celebrated March 2-6 (starting on Dr. Seuss' birthday), Read Across America is a year-round reading motivation and awareness program created by the National Education Association (NEA). This year's theme is *Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers* and each month NEA suggests books that help kids of all ages, races, and ethnicities to discover their own voices while learning from the stories of others.

On March 1, Mayor Jacobs will read at Tate's Day School at 9 a.m. and at Mt. Olive Elementary at 1:30 p.m.

In the morning on March 2, he will visit Maynard Elementary (737 College Street) at 8:30 a.m. and South Knox Elementary (801 Sevier Avenue) at 9:15 a.m.

At 10:30 a.m., he will attend the Cedar Bluff Branch Library (9045 Cross Park Drive) preschool story time, which are designed for children ages 3-5, but any child accompanied by an adult is welcome to attend.

After story time, the schedule is as follows:

- 11:15 a.m. Cedar Bluff Elementary (705 N. Cedar Bluff Road)
- 1:15 p.m. Christian Academy of Knoxville (529 Academy Way)
- 2 p.m. Webb School of Knoxville – Lower School (9800 Webb School Lane)

At 2 p.m. on Friday, March 3, he will also join Pastor John Unthank to read at Green Magnet Academy (801 Lula Powell Drive).

Mayor Jacobs will track his reading time for the Read City USA 2023 Challenge *All Together Now*. Every minute spent reading (or listening) counts towards our goal of reading 1 million hours. Anyone who wants to log their own hours can pick up a reading log at their local library, print their own at home, or log online with the Beanstack Tracker app. There are prizes to be collected for reading just 20 minutes per day and tracking that time. Even better? Being read to and listening to audiobooks or podcasts can be tracked, too.

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