



ST. MARKS BAPTIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY

EST. 1949



Organized by the St. Marks Baptist Assoc. The first pastor was Rev. Atkins Leday, Sr., who ministered to members from Plaisance/St. Landry Parish in a nearby area. The purpose of the church was to encourage religion, education, charity, and the worship of God according to the Baptist faith. A one room building served as the first sanctuary with an outdoor Baptismal Font. St. Marks has saved many souls and buried many in its cemetery. Rev. Atkins Leday, Sr. and his wife are buried in the cemetery. Remembering The Place: That Saves Us

SPONSORED BY THE WILLIAM BLOUNT, III AND THERESA JOHNSON - BLOUNT FAMILY AND COOKING FROM BAYOU COURTABLEAU



**St. Marks Baptist Church and Cemetery
Louisiana Historical Marker Unveiling
3461 Hwy 167 Opelousas, LA 70570
August 12th, 2024 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**



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The St. Marks Baptist Church Historical Marker Unveiling August 12, 2024 - 10-11 A.M.

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies
National Anthem
Invocation
Pledge of Flag
Welcome
Special Remarks

William "Bill" Blount, III
Group (Please Stand)
Brother Lincoln Celestain
Group (Please Stand)
Mayor, Julius Alsandor, Opel. LA
Paul Smith, Office of Lt. Governor
Billy Nungesser

Project Members

Chair, Theresa Johnson-Blount*
Co-Chair, William "Bill" Blount, III
Brother Clayton Celestain
Brother Lincoln Celestain
Minister Gwendolyn Edwin
Sister Catherine Gallien
Brother Paul Joseph*
Brother Elijah Malone
Sister Winnie F. Malone
Pastor Jason Robin, Sr.

Importance of Historical Markers

Mayor, Dwight Landreneaux, Washington, LA

State Role in Preservation

State Rep., Dustin Miller

Importance of Documentation

Brian Davis, Executive Director of LA Trust
for Historic Preservation

Unveiling

Mayors and State Representatives

Brother Lincoln Celestain

Brother Clayton Celestain

Sister Winnie F. Malone

Brother Paul Joseph*

Brain Davis, Historic Preservation

Benediction

Brother Lincoln Celestain

Refreshments (To go)

Special Thanks: Mr. & Mrs. William Blount, III (*Cooking From Bayou Courtableau Nostalgia Bakery (Dry Sweet Dough Mix For Home Baked And Cooked Goods) Hot Foods/Arts/Crafts, LLC, Baton Rouge, LA (Paid for Sign).*)

In conclusion, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all individuals and organizations who have contributed to the success of this project. Their support and encouragement have been pivotal in realizing our goals and aspirations. They are: St. Marks Baptist Church Committee Members; St. Landry Court House Record Staff; Louisiana Secretary of State; East Baton Rouge Parish Library Reference Dept.; Special Collection, and Business Center; Louisiana State University (History Department, Middleton Library, Louisiana Room Collection); Louisiana Sec. of State; Rep. Dustin Miller; Mayor, Julius Alsandor /Opelousas, LA: Mayor: Dwight Landreneaux, Washington, LA; Mr. Brain Davis, Executive Director of LA Trust for Historic Preservation; Ms. Lynne M. Cowell, Director of Research/LA Office Tourism; DOTD/Opelousas/Lafayette, Mr. Eric Dauphine, and staff (Brandon and Tyler); SFC Denis B. Rocon...B&D Marble and Granite Ms. Carroll W. Suggs and Mr. Hall Davis LA Cemetery Board; and Retired Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré; and Paul Smith, Office of Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser.

Door Prizes

*Descendant

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Door Prizes

*Descendant



*Certificate of Special
Congressional Recognition*

Presented to

ST. MARKS BAPTIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY

in recognition of

its enduring legacy of faith, service, and community in Plaisance, LA and St. Landry Parish. Founded under the leadership of Reverend Atkins Leday, Sr., St. Marks has long served as a sanctuary for worship, a place of baptism, and a resting place for generations. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the constituents of Louisiana's 6th Congressional District, we honor St. Marks Baptist Church for its historical importance, steadfast commitment to preserving the values of the Baptist faith, and its lasting impact on the lives of all who have walked through its doors.

August 12, 2024

DATE

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cleo Fields".

CLEO FIELDS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
SIXTH DISTRICT, LOUISIANA









William Blount, III, Master of Ceremonies, and group



Group preparing for unveiling of historical marker. Descendants to the left, Theresa Johnson-Blount, and right, Paul Joseph, and dignitaries.



Descendants Theresa Johnson-Blount and Paul Joseph, and dignitaries, preparing for unveiling.



Descendants and dignitaries unveiling of historic marker.



Historical marker unveiled and sponsored by the William Blount, III, and Theresa Johnson-Blount Family, and Cooking From Bayou Courtableau Nostalgia Bakery (Dry Sweet Dough Mix For Home And Cooked Goods) Hot Foods/Arts/Crafts, LLC., Baton Rouge, LA. Special thanks to the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, Louisiana State University Hill Memorial Library, Opelousas Courthouse, Louisiana Historian Brian Davis, and Descendant Paul Joseph, for his invaluable contributions.