

Resolution to Grant Emeritus Status to Napoleon Lewis Jr.

WHEREAS, Saginaw Valley State University grants emeritus/emerita status to retiring faculty/administrators who have served the University with distinction; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Napoleon Lewis Sr., affectionately known as "Louie", arrived at Saginaw Valley College (SVC) in 1971 as a Safety Officer in the Department of Public Safety, where he quickly established himself as a person whom anybody in need of help could turn to; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis was in charge of managing the parking lots at a time when parking was a primary safety concern of the institution due to limited parking spaces and a rapidly growing student body and where he exercised his responsibilities with grace and respect for all students, faculty, staff and visitors, being sensitive to the requirements of the various groups and individuals but firm in applying the policies designed to insure campus safety; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis' ability to converse with students to provide valuable life lessons combined with his genuine caring attitude created a mutual respect between students and Mr. Lewis in his role of fostering a safe and caring environment, and for many students, he was the father away from home, providing a listening ear and safe advice to overcome their challenges to succeed both in and outside the classroom, a role he played that was not part of his job description, but offered willingly; and

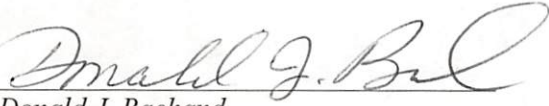
WHEREAS, in his later role as Equipment Manager in the Athletic Department until his retirement in 1989, he continued to be a surrogate father for many student athletes, an ear to bend for coaches, a person to confide in and a shoulder to lean on, and as he took great pride in ensuring that team uniforms looked their best for game days, his most significant contribution was in helping to shape the men and women who filled those uniforms, for game day and every day after; and

WHEREAS, one of his more notable impacts was on the African American Athletes in the 1970's and 1980's when the black faculty and support staff population was sparse but these young athletes found a home and support system in Mr. Lewis; and

WHEREAS, he was a devout Cardinal and passionate supporter of SVSU and as he was ahead of his time in truly nurturing "Red Pride" on this campus as he frequently attended games with his wife (Nelia) and seven children, many of whom became SVSU students and staff/faculty; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis was a beacon of light, passionately committed by example, not words, to impact student success, and through his everyday dedication, he was a significant "difference maker" who was respected and loved by all on campus: students, staff and faculty. He was a highly valued and dedicated employee at a time when SVSC was a fledgling institution that depended on its people to develop it and "Louie" was integral to our reputation and future as a caring place; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mr. Napoleon Lewis Sr. be recognized as "Ambassador Emeritus".


Donald J. Bachand
President

