



March 31, 2019

Mr. Russell L. Lewis
707 W Junior Terrace Apt 10
Chicago, IL 60613

Dear Russell,

With the transition of the Eastland Disaster Historical Society (EDHS) from being family run to being organizationally run, EDHS as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization will soon cease to exist. What this means is that you will have not only served as the first chairperson of our Board of Trustees, but the *only* chairperson ever in the organization's history.

To acknowledge and celebrate your heartfelt and passionate contributions to EDHS over the past nearly two decades, the EDHS Board of Trustees recently voted unanimously to create a permanent legacy honoring your volunteer service. This fits perfectly with what we do as an organization: Creating permanent legacies is what EDHS has excelled at doing for thousands of Eastland Disaster families for over twenty years. Therefore, the enclosed declaration describes the specific plans to permanently connect you to the history of the Eastland Disaster Historical Society.

On behalf of the entire EDHS Board of Trustees and all whose lives you impacted in a positive way – including ours – we gratefully share our planned actions as attached.

With warm regards,

Susan Decker
Co-Founder

Barbara Decker Wachholz
Co-Founder

Ted Wachholz
Executive Director

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A Tribute Resolution of Heart-Felt Appreciation Honoring Russell L. Lewis

Whereas Russell Lewis was the first person to embrace the vision of the Eastland Disaster Historical Society (EDHS) at a very early stage in its organizational history;

Whereas Russell Lewis quickly recognized the value that would be provided to the public by EDHS;

Whereas Russell Lewis thoughtfully took a huge leap of faith to join an organization whose business plan consisted primarily of the vision and passion of its founders;

Whereas Russell Lewis committed to volunteer his time and talents to help lead EDHS at the earliest stages of organizational development;

Whereas Russell Lewis patiently supported and nurtured EDHS's founders as they slowly molded the organization;

Whereas Russell Lewis has served EDHS with the highest distinction; becoming the first chairperson of the EDHS Board of Trustees in 2002; serving as its one-and-only chairperson for the past seventeen years; having the distinctive opportunity in serving as its final chairperson as EDHS transitions its operations to several other not-for-profit organizations;

Whereas Russell Lewis complemented his experience and knowledge of public history with his dry, clever sense of humor to help lead EDHS in its mission-based operations and events; guiding EDHS from its infancy to its status as an important and relevant not-for-profit organization whose reach impacts people across the country;

Whereas Russell Lewis enriched those fortunate enough to know and work with him, mentoring the EDHS director from one year to the next; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Eastland Disaster Historical Society, on behalf of its members and Board, commits to:

1. creating one to several collections of artifacts, each to permanently bear the name *Russell L. Lewis Honorary Eastland Disaster Collection*, at institutions such as the Newberry Library and the Chicago Maritime Museum, among others; and
2. creating a webpage documenting his personal contributions to EDHS as the one and only – in many ways – chairperson, the webpage to be permanently tied to the *About Us* section of the website

So moved and seconded on March 31, 2019 by the EDHS Board of Trustees,

Susan Decker
Co-Founder

Barbara Decker Wachholz
Co-Founder

Ted Wachholz
Executive Director

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