



Proclamation

By the Mayor of Prattville, Alabama

WHEREAS, Mr. Willis Bradford is a native of Prattville, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, he was hired as the first director of the newly incorporated Prattville YMCA on October 13, 1963. Working out of temporary facilities, he quickly made an impact on the community. In his first 5 years, Mr. Bradford achieved the highest YMCA community participation rate. He helped raise over \$325,000 to build the first permanent facility - now known as the Don M. Smith Branch YMCA; and

WHEREAS, he expanded his leadership role in the community as he served on numerous boards, supported local civic organizations, held key leadership positions at First United Methodist Church, and provided the leadership to organize the United Way of Autauga County; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA continued to develop new programs that had a positive, Christian impact on the city and many other programs which helped the YMCA "to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all." As the YMCA membership grew, the Prattville YMCA became known nationally as "The Biggest Small-Town YMCA in America"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bradford's efforts have greatly expanded the YMCA facilities. After an expansion in June 2000, the YMCA opened the doors to the \$2.6 million Prattville East Branch - now known as the "Willis Bradford Branch YMCA." A new Wellness Center on Highway 82 was officially opened in 2009. Today the Prattville YMCA serves over 16,000 individuals on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, he has won numerous awards for his leadership and commitment to the YMCA, to his church, and to the Prattville community.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Gillespie, Jr., Mayor of the City of Prattville, Alabama, do hereby proclaim Sunday, November 4, 2012 as

MR. WILLIS BRADFORD DAY

In Prattville, Alabama, and urge our citizens to recognize and commend Mr. Bradford for his leadership role within the community as well as his significant contribution and impact on the YMCA movement.

*Given Under My Hand and the Seal of the City of
Prattville on the 4th day of November 2012.*

Bill Gillespie
Mayor Bill Gillespie, Jr.

