



THE CITY OF OXFORD

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Edward Aschoff was born on December 24, 1985 and grew up in Oxford, Mississippi; and

Whereas, his parents, Peter and Patricia Aschoff, brought light to our community, teaching our children, advocating for domestic violence victims and preserving the history and power of the Delta Blues; and

Whereas, at Oxford High he dreamed of getting into the University of Florida, captained the drum line, played soccer and was voted by his classmates as "cutest." He loved Godzilla and the Simpsons. He found joy in inviting his many friends over for his mother's fried chicken and mac and cheese; and

Whereas, his dream came true. He took the University of Florida by storm, a force of nature, building a body of work as an undergraduate that many professionals would envy. He reached out to working journalists he admired; years later, when he reached the top of his profession at ESPN, he remembered the people who'd helped him and passed that help on to a generation of students he mentored; and

Whereas, he began working at ESPN in 2011, writing beautiful stories, as well as finding his voice and confidence by becoming a dynamic radio and television reporter. His love for words came through in how purposeful he was in their use, whether for stories told honestly and accurately or for the notes he sent to check in with his many friends; and

Whereas, he never forgot his Oxford roots; and

Whereas, he was known in press boxes from Eugene to Miami as the best dressed reporter in the country, and was known for his knowledge of the best restaurants and bars in every town his job took him to, and was known most of all for the contagious joy that made him magnetic and vital in the lives of all who met and loved him; and

Whereas, he shouldered the terrible burden of losing both his parents without letting that pain steal his most essential self. In fact, with help from his aunt Gretchen and other family members, he doubled down on his spirit, rising above circumstances that would have dragged down a lesser man; and

Whereas, he broke down barriers and connected with everyone he ever crossed paths with regardless of background, political views, team allegiances, musical preferences - even if you didn't like soccer; and

Whereas, he fawned over his cat Meeko and treated him much the same way as Charlie Brown treated Snoopy - as his pal - which is the way Edward treated everyone; and

Whereas, he found Katy Berteau and with her and her parents and siblings built a new family. His love for her, and hers for him, should serve as a beacon; and

Whereas, he was more concerned about Katy and her emotional well-being, especially her missing so much work to be with him, than he was his own deteriorating condition while confined to a hospital bed less than a week before he passed; and

Whereas, his sudden death on his 34th birthday has left a hole in her life, and in the lives of co-workers at ESPN and sports fans across America, and in the town of Oxford where he started his journey. The people who loved him have watched in awe the past month as the entire country has come to know him for his talent and drive, yes, but mostly for the way he lived his life. We should all aspire to be remembered that way.

Now, therefore, I, Robyn Tannehill, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of Oxford, Mississippi

do hereby proclaim January 18, 2020 as

Edward Aschoff Day

Be it further resolved that a copy of this proclamation be spread upon the minutes of the City of Oxford and that a copy of same be presented to Katy Berteau.

Mayor Robyn Tannehill

Alderman Rick Addy Alderman Dr. Janice Antonow Alderman Jason Bailey Alderman Kesha Howell-Atkinson

Alderman Mark Huelse Alderman John Morgan Alderman Preston Taylor