



# *Parish of Ascension*

OFFICE of COMMUNICATIONS

KENNY MATASSA  
Parish President

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 17, 2018

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### **President Matassa Proclaims Cooper James Smith Day**

At the August 16 meeting of the Ascension Parish Council, President Kenny Matassa honored a local hero by Proclaiming Cooper Smith Day.

According to the proclamation, on June 8, 2018, while at a neighborhood party, Cooper James Smith was in the swimming pool with eight or ten other children while all of the adults were occupied elsewhere preparing the food and refreshments. A pair of four-year-old twins jumped into the pool without any flotation devices, and without being noticed. Cooper realized that something was not right when the twins did not resurface. He jumped off his raft and swam to the boy, pulling him up and making him hold on to the wall of the pool. He then swam to the girl and pulled her safely to the wall. None of the approximately thirty people there had any idea what was happening until the twins started crying. Cooper Smith's awareness and quick actions prevented a community celebration from turning into a family tragedy.

Cooper James Smith is 11 years old and resides in Prairieville with his parents, Jamey and Kim Smith, and his siblings Piper and Georgia. He is a student at Prairieville Middle School, and a member of Boy Scout Troop 65.

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Photo #1: Left to Right – President Matassa, Jamey Smith, Cooper Smith, Kim Smith, and Councilman Benny Johnson.

Photo #2: President Matassa, Cooper Smith, and scouts and leaders of Boy Scout Troop 65.