

## **RESOLUTION #121 – FY2025**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE YOUNG COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT OFFICIALLY NAMING THE COUNTY CEMETERY LOCATED ON THE 380 BY-PASS IN GRAHAM, TEXAS, AS "WILLIAM P. JOHNSTON CEMETERY."**

**WHEREAS**, the Young County Historical Commission has conducted extensive research on the county cemetery located on the 380 By-Pass in Graham, Texas, and has provided a formal recommendation regarding its official designation; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 4, 1923, Addie M. Graham gifted the land for the cemetery to then County Judge W. H. Reeves and his successors, with the deed specifying that the land was to be used solely as a burial ground for the local Black community; and

**WHEREAS**, historical evidence suggests that the cemetery operated without an official name and was referred to by various names, some of which included language now considered inappropriate, divisive, and inconsistent with the morals of this community; and

**WHEREAS**, for many years, Mr. William P. Johnston Jr. voluntarily maintained the cemetery, providing care and upkeep without known compensation, as a charitable contribution to the community; and

**WHEREAS**, following Mr. Johnston's passing in 1971, a sign was placed at the entrance of the cemetery by Wilbur "Sonny" Williams, designating the site as the "William P. Johnston Memorial Cemetery," a name which has since been in consistent use for over five decades; and

**WHEREAS**, the William P. Johnston Preservation Committee conducted its independent research and came to similar findings and conclusions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Young County Historical Commission has recommended that the cemetery be officially named "William P. Johnston Cemetery" in recognition of its historical reference, non-discriminatory nature, and suitability for community acceptance;


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Young County Commissioners Court that:

1. The county cemetery located on the 380 By-Pass in Graham, Texas, shall be officially named "William P. Johnston Cemetery."
2. Appropriate signage reflecting this official designation shall be installed at the site.
3. This resolution shall be entered into the official records of Young County and communicated to relevant county and state entities.

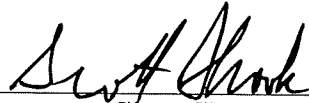
**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this **14th day of April, 2025**, by the Young  
County Commissioners Court.



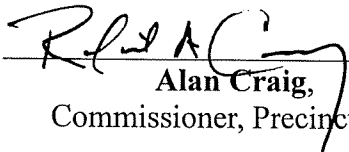
**WIN GRAHAM,**  
Young County Judge



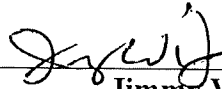
**Stacy Creswell,**  
Commissioner, Precinct One



**Scott Shook,**  
Commissioner, Precinct Two




**Alan Craig,**  
Commissioner, Precinct Three



**Jimmy Wiley,**  
Commissioner, Precinct Four

**Attest:**



**Tina Gilliam,**  
Young County Clerk