



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** Joe Young, affectionately known as “Mighty Joe,” grew up in Belleville, Illinois, where he developed a deep love for football while attending games at the historic Township Stadium; and

**WHEREAS,** as a standout quarterback for Belleville West High School during the mid-1970s, Joe Young led the Maroons through one of their most storied seasons, including an impressive 11-1 campaign in 1976, an undefeated regular season, and a Southwestern Conference championship, advancing to the Class 5A state semifinals; and

**WHEREAS,** Joe’s impact on Belleville’s football tradition is forever tied to the cherished memories of the Thanksgiving Day matchups between the Maroons and East St. Louis Flyers, which drew thousands and united the community in spirit and pride; and

**WHEREAS,** Joe Young embodied leadership, perseverance, and athletic excellence, becoming a hometown hero, whose influence extended far beyond the field; and

**WHEREAS,** Joe went on to dedicate over 40 years of outstanding service as a photojournalist at KSDK, Channel 5 in St. Louis, Missouri, where he brought technical skill, creativity, and an infectious positivity to the newsroom every single day; and

**WHEREAS,** his camera lens documented some of the most iconic and historic moments in the St. Louis region, including the Great Flood of 1993 and the long-awaited triumph of the St. Louis Blues in 2019, capturing the spirit and resilience of the community with compassion and clarity; and

**WHEREAS,** Joe Young has been more than a journalist – he has been a trusted colleague, a generous mentor, and a source of light to all who worked beside him, known for his kindness, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to storytelling that matters; and

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Jenny Gain Meyer, Mayor of the City of Belleville, Illinois, do hereby recognize Joe “Mighty Joe” Young, acknowledging his legendary contributions to Belleville West football, his decades of impactful journalism in St. Louis, and his enduring legacy as a leader, role model, and hometown treasure.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025.



Jenny Gain Meyer, Mayor  
Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025