

February 2026

Dear Friends, Neighbors, and Community Members,

Our hearts are heavy as we reflect on the loss of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson Sr. and honor the work and legacy he leaves behind. The Kitsap County Council for Human Rights is writing this acknowledgment to recognize the voice and courage that Reverend Jackson gave to the American people. His leadership shapes the civil rights movement to this day and the effects of his work continue to echo in communities like ours here in Kitsap County.

Reverend Jackson dedicated his life to expand civil rights, increase voter participation, and advocate for equity in accessing education. He developed several opportunities for marginalized communities and elevate awareness for justice in America by founding organizations such as Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) and the Rainbow Coalition (which have since merged and now known as Rainbow/PUSH). His fearless activism spanned through civil rights efforts, including his work with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Operation Breadbasket, the Selma marches, and global human rights advocacy. Opening conversations for human rights, anti-discrimination protections, LGBTQ+ rights, access to the ballot box, and representation in public life conversations has influenced policies, community efforts, and grassroots movements across the country.



Though his path did not physically cross Kitsap County, the ripple effects of his advocacy have been felt here for years. His calls for coalition-building, civic engagement, and the defense of human rights helped shape the frameworks and values that guide our local work today. Our Kitsap Community- diverse, resilient, and committed to equity have benefited from the standards of justice and inclusion that he helped uplift and reminds us that every community, no matter its size, has a role in the broader movement towards justice.

As we honor his life, we reaffirm our commitment to carrying forward the values he championed. In Kitsap County, our council will continue to advocate for safety, dignity, and belonging for all people. We will continue to develop opportunities for dialogue, advocating for equity, and building a community where every person is respected and protected.

Reverend Jackson's legacy calls us not only to remember, but to act with compassion, courage, and unity.

Today, we remember a leader whose impact transcended geography and time. We honor the life of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson Sr., and we pledge to uphold the principles he stood for, ensuring that his work continues in our county, our communities, and our daily actions.

In solidarity,

Kitsap County Council for Human Rights