



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Press contact:
Katarina Luketich – Public Information Officer
(228) 372-6888
kluketich@cityofpascagoula.com

March 23, 2021

Statement on the passing of former Pascagoula Mayor Matthew Avara

PASCAGOULA, Miss. – Former Pascagoula Mayor Matthew Avara passed away on March 22, 2021. Avara served two terms as Councilman at Large (1997-2005) and one term as Mayor (2005-2009).

Avara was elected as Mayor just six weeks prior to Hurricane Katrina and served as the face and voice of a ravaged, yet determined community before an international audience.

"I knew and liked Matthew ever since we both sang in our early teens in his Mother's annual Methodist Youth Christmas Choirs. We graduated from Pascagoula High School in the same class. He was well-liked, and the closest person we had to a class comedian.

Matt worked hard as Mayor to bring Pascagoula back in the dark days after Hurricane Katrina. I remember people asking would he still have run for Mayor had he known what Katrina would do to our town. His response was always the same: 'I would have run twice as hard.' Matt loved our hometown, and, even after he left office, never stopped being an advocate for it."

-Councilman Stephen Burrow, Ward 3

###