

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act: "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation; and

WHEREAS, celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885, when Fredonia, Wisconsin public school teacher B.J. Cigrand arranged for his pupils to observe the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of the Stars and Stripes, as Flag Birthday; and

WHEREAS, in following years, New York City kindergarten teacher George Balch planned ceremonies for the children of his school, which were later adopted by the State Board of Education, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Societies of the Sons of the Revolution and Colonial Dames of America and others began to spread the celebration of the flag; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane delivered an address in which he repeated the words he said the flag had spoken to him: "I am what you make me, nothing more, I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself"; and

WHEREAS, President Harry S. Truman signed an Act of Congress in 1947, designating June 14 as National Flag Day; and

WHEREAS, the Stars and Stripes continues to fly proudly over our nation's capital, throughout the United States, and on our embassies, bases and ships throughout the world, representing the hopes and dreams of all who desire freedom and liberty.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim June 14 as

Flag Day 2006

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me as we commemorate this national holiday, by proudly flying the American Flag throughout our community and keeping the last lines of the Star Spangled Banner a message of truth and hope-- "And the Star Spangled Banner in Triumph Shall Wave, O'er the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this First day of June, A.D., 2006.



Pegeen Hanrahan
Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor