

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville encourages all citizens of the Gainesville community to recognize Monday, May 25, 2009, as WASP Recognition Day; and

WHEREAS, more than 60 years ago the Women Air Force Service Pilots of World War II were the first women in history to fly American military aircraft in essential, noncombat missions, releasing male pilots for overseas combat deployment; and

WHEREAS, the WASP, who faced overwhelming cultural and gender bias, logged 60 million miles in every type of military aircraft as ferry and transport pilots, instructors, and test pilots, even performing dangerous aerial assignments, such as towing targets for anti-aircraft gunnery practice; and

WHEREAS, the Memorial Day Committee and Wings of Dreams Aviation Museum support the passage of Senate Bill 614 to award the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest and most distinguished civilian award, to the WASP for their valor, service and sacrifice, which remain largely unknown to this day; and

WHEREAS, citizens throughout our community are invited to honor the rich legacy of the WASP by attending Memorial Day ceremonies held at Forest Meadows Cemetery East located on Hawthorne Road, beginning at 10:00 am on May 25, 2009.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim May 25, 2009 as

WASP Recognition Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me to recognize the exemplary achievements of these pioneering women and their contributions to protecting the freedoms that all Americans enjoy today.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 27th day of April, A.D., 2009.



Pegeen Hanrahan
Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor