

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

#070656

11/19/07

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Ron Balsamo was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1937, and moved to Gainesville when he was 11 years old, where as a young child, he learned to repair shoes from his father; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Ron Balsamo's father owned and operated a shoe store in the Chestnuts Office Supply building across the street from the Modern Shoe Repair Shop; and

WHEREAS, for almost a half century Ron Balsamo has resoled and re-heeled thousands of pairs of shoes, and has contributed much to the appearance and goodwill of our wonderful community; and

WHEREAS, Ron Balsamo and his wife June have owned and operated their Modern Shoe Repair Shop at 101 North Main Street for 46 years, and have helped to promote the economic health of Gainesville and Alachua County; and

WHEREAS, Amos Lewis learned how to shine shoes as a young child in Gainesville, and has been the "Shine Man" at Modern Shoe Repair for over 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Amos Lewis has shined thousands of pairs of shoes, and at age 85, says he still has another twenty good shining years left in him and will be setting up at Preacher George's Chicken and Rib Shop just south of the Gainesville Police Department at 601 NW 6th Street; and

WHEREAS, as Ron and June Balsamo and Amos Lewis will move on to new adventures in their lives, we wish them well and we will miss them deeply when they close their marvelous little repair shop on November 15th.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim December 2007 as

Modern Shoe Repair Shop Month

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in extending our deep appreciation for the dedication of Ron and June Balsamo and Amos Lewis and the distinguished longevity of the Modern Shoe Repair Shop, a local business used for nearly five decades by thousands of Gainesvillians, and which will be greatly missed in the downtown area.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 12th day of November, A.D., 2007.

Pegeen Hanrahan
Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor

