

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Dr. John K. Mahon served his country during an army career of four years that included combat with Patton's army in four European countries, and concluded it with his Honorable Discharge as Captain in 1946; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John K. Mahon demonstrated a life-long love of learning and scholarship that benefited his fellow citizens for nearly 70 years, beginning with his graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Swarthmore College in 1934, continuing on through a distinguished career as a professor, Chair of the UF Department of History, author of four books and after 28 years of exemplary service, concluding with his retirement from the University of Florida as the recognized authority on the Seminole Wars; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mahon exhibited an ardent concern and love for the environment that expressed itself by his being active in the Florida Audubon Society for almost 40 years, in local Sierra Club groups for several decades, and by his work helping to conserve parts of Paynes Prairie, San Felasco Hammock and the Hogtown Creek Greenway, and being instrumental in establishing the first county park in Alachua County at Poe Springs; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mahon shouldered leadership responsibilities for a wide range of organizations, helping to form and holding office in many organizations, including the Alachua Conservation Trust, Conservation Planning Coalition, Florida Audubon Society, Florida Defenders of the Environment, Florida Historical Society, Alachua County Historic Trust, the Sierra Club, and the Seminole Wars Historic foundations; and

WHEREAS, John Mahon was a resident of the Sugarfoot Community, lived adjacent to the nature park for 50 years, and was a founder and officer of the Sugarfoot Community Improvement Association; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mahon inspired enormous admiration and respect from his family, his many friends, his neighbors, and his fellow citizens for his selflessness, strong principles, complete integrity, and committed environmental stewardship.

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

John Mahon Nature Park

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in perpetual recognition to the memory of this dedicated and exemplary citizen, whose very significant contributions to the people and institutions of our community will be his eternal legacy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 8th day of August, A.D., 2005.


Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor

