

# City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Edward B. Braddy  
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Ms. Esther A. Jones is a lifelong resident of the Gainesville and Alachua County area; and

WHEREAS, before health became an issue, Ms. Jones spent much of her adult life working with children and youth. Her work included working as an employee of the Gainesville Recreation Department in various recreation centers and on various playgrounds for over 20 years; helping to shape the life of many young people in this community through athletics, attendance at cultural events and life's lessons; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones also worked with children and youth of this community in her position with the State of Florida's Children and Family Services Department. While an employee with Children and Family Services, Ms. Jones used the contacts and resources she developed to expose many underprivileged children and youth to many cultural events such as plays at various theaters around the community, various types of summer camps which were ran by different organizations and various athletic events sponsored by the University of Florida. Because of her dedication to the children and youth of the community, some went on to become star athletes. One of those was Vernell Brown Sr. who led Gainesville High School to a State Championship in football and starred in football at the University of Florida. One of her greatest loves was helping to coach young boys in Pop Warner Football; and

WHEREAS, her love for seeing the children and youth in the community also extended into her personal life. She helped start and was a very important part of a Girls Scout Troop at her church, Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church. She also helped start and run an afterschool program at the church where she was a part of getting many teachers to volunteer their time and talents in helping those children who needed help to become more successful students; and

WHEREAS, her love for both sports and helping others also sometimes extended to adults as she coached a men's sandlot baseball team and helped to coach several men's flag football teams in different leagues sponsored by the City of Gainesville Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, a lover of people, a lover of life and a lover of her community, she is still remembered and revered by many as evidenced by the people who still approach her just to say thank you for being there for me, for teaching me about life and for letting me know and making me believe that I am and always will be somebody.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward B. Braddy, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim March 17, 2016 as

## *Ms. Esther A. Jones Day*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in thanking her for the many contributions to our community and the infinite love she shared with the youth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, A.D., 2016.



*Ed B. Braddy*  
Edward B. Braddy  
Mayor