

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

#051138

04/10/06

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in February of 1856, the ground now known as Evergreen Cemetery received its first burial, Elizabeth, the infant daughter of James Tillett and Elizabeth Jane Hall Thomas; and

WHEREAS, the Thomas Family heirs, along with various other families and organizations, have deeded their property to the original Evergreen Cemetery Association over the years with the City of Gainesville assuming ownership in 1944; and

WHEREAS, although the cemetery has grown to over fifty-three acres, the site of this original burial remains the historic center of Evergreen Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, through the commitment of the City, support from the community, and dedication of the staff, Evergreen Cemetery has been and continues to be a burial site that also functions as an outdoor museum with stories of local historic developmental importance unfolding at every turn, as well as attracting visitors with varied interests such as genealogy, tombstone art and iconography, photography and native plant material; and

WHEREAS, the Evergreen Cemetery Association of Gainesville, Inc., revived in 1994, heralds over 300 members who work diligently through projects, tours, and gifts of self to protect, preserve and enhance our beloved and historic Evergreen Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, through the good stewardship of the City of Gainesville, the dignity, serenity, and exquisite natural beauty of Evergreen Cemetery will continue to be maintained in perpetuity, as its original donors intended, and forever remain a vital presence for future generations to enjoy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim the year 2006 as

Evergreen Cemetery 150th Anniversary Year

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in celebrating the Anniversary of this wondrous and historical place.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 31st day of March, A.D., 2006.

Pegeen Hanrahan
Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor

