

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Thomas D. Bussing

#002544

Mar 25, 2002

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 4.5 million children aged 12-17 in the United States are current smokers and more than 3,000 additional children become smokers each day; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control predict more than 5 million children under age 18 alive today will die prematurely from smoking-related diseases unless current trends are reversed; and

WHEREAS, smoking-related illnesses already kill roughly 480,000 Americans each year representing more deaths than from AIDS, alcohol, car accidents, murders, suicides, drugs, and fires combined; and

WHEREAS, teen smoking in Florida has declined by 18% for high school students and 40% for middle school students since the inception of Florida's Tobacco Control Program in 1998 and the two-year decline in current cigarette use in Florida represents 49,624 fewer youth smokers in 2000 and approximately 16,376 fewer premature deaths; and

WHEREAS, the Alachua County Students Working Against Tobacco will no longer tolerate the tobacco industry's efforts to manipulate them into buying lethal and addictive products through deceptive advertising; and

WHEREAS, most tobacco-related deaths could have been prevented.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas D. Bussing, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim April 3rd, 2002 as

Kick Butts Day 2002

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in standing up with the children of this city in support of their efforts to take the glamour out of using tobacco and let the truth be known about this dangerous yet legal product.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this sixth day of March, A.D., 2002.



Thomas D. Bussing
Thomas D. Bussing
Mayor