

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, there are more than 30,000 suicides annually in the nation, and in Alachua County there were 28, 31 and 37 suicides and 13, 7 and 10 homicides in 2001, 2002 and 2003 respectively; and

WHEREAS, more law enforcement officers die by suicide than in the line of duty; suicide ranks third behind accidents and homicide as a cause of death among young (15-24) Americans; and, suicide rates among the elderly are highest for those who are divorced or widowed; and

WHEREAS, there are no official statistics on attempted suicide, however, it is generally estimated that there are at least 8 to 20 attempts for each death by suicide; and

WHEREAS, while suicide is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, the stigma associated with mental illness works against suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, one in six Americans suffers from depression and yet this illness remains hidden because the stigma associated with suicide further traumatizes those people who lose a loved one by suicide.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim March 30, 2005 as

Suicide Prevention Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in working to prevent suicide through public awareness and education, eliminating the associated stigma, and serving as a resource to those touched by suicide -- remembering that 80% of the people seeking treatment for depression are treated successfully.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 24th day of February, A.D., 2005.


Pegeen Hanrahan
Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor