

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Craig Lowe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in Clair C. Chaffin's desire to serve his country during WWII, he enlisted at the age of 17 in the Navy where he was trained as a corpsman and attached to the Fourth Marine Division. Mr. Chaffin served in four battles in the Pacific and was awarded the Silver Star for heroism during the battle of Saipan; and

WHEREAS, during his civilian career Mr. Chaffin continued to serve his country by supervising the building and additions to the VA Hospitals in Gainesville and Miami, as well as building base housing at Cape Kennedy and Fort Rucker in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Chaffin's civilian career, as well as in retirement, he was active in various veteran groups. He served as National President of the Fourth Marine Division. As President he traveled all over the United States giving speeches and attending ceremonies. Mr. Chaffin became friends to many leading generals and was involved in the dedication of the National Marine Museum; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chaffin remained active in the state and local veterans groups including the Marine Corps League, VFW, and Disabled Veterans; and he gave talks to the Young Marines and to the boys at the Florida Boys Ranch in Live Oak. He wanted to encourage the youth to honor their country and stay on course; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chaffin was one of the three founding members of the Two Trio which included Bob Gasche of the Fifth Marine Division, Cliff Cormier of the Third Division, and himself of the Fourth Division. The group met at McAlister's Deli and have memorabilia there in a section named Suribachi Cove; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chaffin was shot June 8, 2009 at his hotel by two men in a robbery attempt, and in memory the Two Trio started the 'Clair C. Chaffin Young Marine Scholarship Fund,' which helps worthy Young Marines attend leadership schools. This was a cause near and dear to Clair's heart; and

WHEREAS, in January 2010 he was posthumously awarded the Alachua County Veteran of the Year Award at the Veterans Awards Banquet, the highest award given to veterans of Alachua County.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Lowe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim June 8, 2010 as

Clair C. Chaffin Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in honoring Mr. Clair C. Chaffin, a veteran who dedicated his time, talents, and life to protect our freedom and to build an even better America.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 20th day of May, A.D., 2010.

Craig Lowe
Mayor