

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Edward B. Braddy
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, a native of Jackson Gap, Alabama, Jessie B. Heard was a standout two-way performer for Florida A&M University's (FAMU) legendary A. S. "Jake" Gaither from 1953 to 1956. During these years he played fullback and linebacker. He was also team captain and all conference fullback in 1956; and

WHEREAS, after graduation in 1957, Mr. Heard played football in the United States Army for Fort Benning in Georgia. After discharge he signed a professional contract with the Los Angeles Chargers, but his professional aspirations were cut short due to a knee injury; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, he began a long career in the Alachua County school system at Lincoln High School serving as head football coach. Coach Jessie excelled in that role until 1969, then he was assigned to Buchholz High School as athletic director and head football coach; and

WHEREAS, during Coach Heard's tenure at Buchholz High School, he was accredited with naming the school mascot; Bobcats, Homecoming Pep Rally; Cat Prowl and the newspaper; Cat Paws. He finished his 19 year coaching career with a 114-30-6 record; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 Coach Heard was inducted into the FAMU Hall of Fame, in June 2007 he was honored by the Alachua County School Board for outstanding service in the community, on August 17, 2007 the football field at Buchholz High School was named in his honor and in 2010 he was honored as a FAMU distinguished alumnus; and

WHEREAS, retirement from the school system enabled Mr. Heard to form Heard's Hydro Flow Well Drilling Company. He served as President of the North Central Florida Water Well Contractors Association and made many trips in the United States to learn concepts of well drilling as applied to other regions; and

WHEREAS, collecting, restoring and showing classic cars and trucks are Mr. Heard and his wife, Yvonne's interest during this phase of retirement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward B. Braddy, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim August 6, 2015 as

Jessie B. Heard Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me and pay special tribute to the very special member of our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 27th day of July, A.D., 2015.

Edward B. Braddy
Mayor