



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Mary Reynolds, will reach the magnificent age of 90 years on May 2, 2018, and has dedicated her professional life to helping others as a Recreation Leader and Sports Activist; and

**WHEREAS**, she began her professional career in 1950 as a Recreation Leader for the Police Athletic League in New York City after graduating from New York University with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Physical Education and enthusiastically engaged children and youth in recreational games, team sports and supervised "street play"; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1954 she accepted employment with the New York City Park Department as a Recreation Leader for the children and youth of Jamaica, Queens, New York, where she also served as a Pre-school teacher and an arts and crafts instructor in addition to directing team sports; and

**WHEREAS**, sports and recreation have been the focus of Mary Reynolds' professional life, she also has been concerned with guiding young people in maintaining a healthy lifestyle even before such advocacy was the accepted norm; and

**WHEREAS**, Mary Reynolds desired to engage her daughters in having a well-rounded, physically active life, she became the Assistant Girl Scout Leader of Troop #409 in Washington, D.C. to inspire them and other young ladies while employed as a Recreation Specialist for the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation at Bertie Backus Recreation Center from 1968 to 1977; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1977, Mary Reynolds moved from Washington, D.C. to North Central Florida to accompany her husband, Leonard Reynolds, a retired Metropolitan D.C. police officer and in 2004 she and her family moved to Ocala, Florida and she began volunteering with the children and youth at the Ed Croskey Recreation Center where her grandson, Javan Latson was a daily after-school attendee and where she also volunteered serving food at the Kids Involved in Diversity Social (KIDS) program; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2006-2007, Mary Reynolds volunteered with her daughter, Marya Latson, to help the children at the Ed Croskey Recreation Center who were members of "The Elite Kids" the only 4-H club in Marion County that provided inner-city children with a knowledge of agriculture score the highest marks at that year's Southeastern Youth Fair's Plant Identification Contest.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Kent Guinn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, Florida, do hereby publicly recognize Mary Reynolds for the remarkable achievement of having reached the wondrous age of 90 and for having mentored, instructed, and served children in every state in which she has worked or volunteered, including the City of Ocala.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Ocala, Florida, to be affixed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018.

Kent Guinn, Mayor  
City of Ocala

