

Proclamation

WHEREAS, May Austin Elizabeth Mann Jennings was born in New Jersey on April 25, 1872, but her family quickly relocated to Florida just two years later; and

WHEREAS, May and her younger sister were sent to the St. Joseph's Convent in St. Augustine for their education where May graduated as valedictorian in 1889; and

WHEREAS, her father was Florida State Senator Austin Mann and May went to Tallahassee to serve as his aide where she met her husband and at that time future Judge William Sherman. They were wed on May 12, 1891; and

WHEREAS, May was known for her knowledge of state politics and her vast network of relationships throughout the state among the Florida Federation of Women's Club members; and

WHEREAS, May was a prominent leader in the women's club movement serving as president of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs from 1914-1917. She then moved on to be the vice president of the General Federation of Women's Club and was a co-founder of the Florida State League of Women Voters; and

WHEREAS, during her time in the Governor's mansion she was labeled "Mother of Forestry" due to works in establishing the Royal Palm State Park in 1915, was on the Everglades National Park Commission in the late 1930s and pushed for the creation of the nation Everglades Park; and

WHEREAS, May was an advocate for the Seminole Indians, Women's Rights and Suffrage, Prohibition, Child Welfare, Education, and Public Health; and

WHEREAS, following their time in the Governor's mansion the Jennings moved to Jacksonville where Governor Jennings established a law firm. They also owned a farm in Middleburg and timber in Clay County; and

WHEREAS, May lived a life of caring for others and concern for the community until she passed at the age of 90 on April 24, 1963.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Green Cove Springs hereby recognizes May Mann Jennings on her outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the wellbeing of the citizens of Florida.

Section 2. A true copy of this Proclamation shall be spread upon the Official Minutes of the City Council of the City of Green Cove Springs.

DONE AND PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, IN REGULAR SESSION THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY 2022.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA



Edward R. Gaw, Mayor

ATTEST:

Erin West, City Clerk