

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the first Women's Club of Florida was formed on February 20, 1883 when 25 Ladies met and organized the Ladies Village Improvement Association of Green Cove Springs with Mrs. A. M. Rutledge as President; and

WHEREAS, a Festival Ball was held to raise money for beautifying the town; and

WHEREAS, in 1888, the Club opened the first Library in Clay County with one (1) donated book, maintaining the Library until 1961 when the Club donated over 4,000 books to Clay County to form its first Library; and

WHEREAS, during 1888, a Children's Auxiliary known as the "Star Branch" was formed by the Ladies for boys and girls who were taught proper manners and to have respect for their community; and

WHEREAS, in 1895, Green Cove Springs became the birthplace of the Florida Federation when Mrs. Ella Burrows issued a call for the formation of a FLORIDA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS with delegates from the five (5) clubs present and who became the Charter Members of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Penelope Borden Hamilton, a member of the Green Cove Springs Club, became the first President of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs; and

WHEREAS, in 1898, the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs acquired membership in the General Federation; and

WHEREAS, the Club opened the first Kindergarten, paid the teacher's salary, and opened the first school cafeteria preparing and serving the food to the students; and

WHEREAS, the Club continues its community service today by participation in Arbor Day, St. Johns River Clean-Up Day, Support Cans for Canines for Wounded Veterans, sponsoring the Annual Opal Reed Beautification Award, providing scholarships for graduating Seniors at Clay High School, and supporting the USO by opening the Club House for social gatherings and serving refreshments, and other projects as decided by the Club to meet the needs of our community, state, nationally and internationally.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS AS FOLLOWS:


Section 1. The City of Green Cove Springs recognizes The Village Improvement Association Federated Women's Club of Green Cove Springs for their 140 years of concerted efforts for social, educational work and beautification projects to benefit the unique quality of life enjoyed by present and future generations of Green Cove Springs.

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 GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, IN REGULAR SESSION THIS 1ST DAY OF AUGUST, 2023.



CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA


Constance W. Butler, Mayor

ATTEST:


Erin West, City Clerk