



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

Council Session

## Item C-1

### Proclamation "Abbott Sisters Day" March 20, 2017

*Celebrated annually since 2002, the goal of the Abbott Sister Project is to raise public awareness of the lives and achievements of Grand Island natives Edith and Grace Abbott, so that these important women may continue to influence policy on children's and immigrants' issues and so that their story may serve as an inspiration to future generations. Mayor Jensen has proclaimed March 20, 2017 as Abbott Sisters Day and encourages citizens to attend a special program at the Edith Abbott Memorial Library on March 19. See attached PROCLAMATION.*

Staff Contact: Steve Fosselman, Library Director

THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
City of Grand Island  
State of Nebraska

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, Edith Abbot was the first female dean of a major American university graduate school, at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration; and
- WHEREAS, Grace Abbott was, as chief of the United States Children's Bureau, the most powerful woman in the federal government at the time when the Great Depression hit, and her work provided the first major effort to combat the economic crisis; and
- WHEREAS, Edith Abbott helped to establish the first graduate program of social work in a major university, and has been recognized as "the chief architect of America's social work educational system"; and
- WHEREAS, Grace Abbott is known as "the great American champion of children's rights" and is recognized as having led the early twentieth century fights to end child labor and to establish child health care; and
- WHEREAS, Grace and Edith Abbott were born and bred in the city of Grand Island in the state of Nebraska and were the children of O.A. Abbott, who was the state of Nebraska's first Lt. Governor, and of Elizabeth Abbott, who was a leader in the early days of the women's suffrage movement in Nebraska and in the formation of the Grand Island Public Library; and
- WHEREAS, Grace and Edith Abbott, to the ends of their lives, wished to be known as "the Abbott Sisters of Nebraska"; and
- WHEREAS, "The Abbott Sisters of Nebraska" are great American women who – despite their important achievements for the rights of children, immigrants, and women – remain virtually unknown to many Nebraskans; and
- WHEREAS, the goal of the Abbott Sister Project is to raise public awareness of the lives and achievements of Edith and Grace Abbott, so that these important women may continue to influence policy on children's and immigrants' issues and so that their story may serve as an inspiration to future generations; and
- WHEREAS, in this 150<sup>th</sup> year of Nebraska statehood, our community will be celebrating Abbott Sisters Day on Sunday, March 19 from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the Edith Abbott Memorial Library, 211 North Washington Street.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeremy L. Jensen, Mayor of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, do hereby proclaim the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017 as


***“ABBOTT SISTERS DAY”***

in the City of Grand Island, and in this 150<sup>th</sup> year of Nebraska statehood I do hereby urge all citizens to recognize the remarkable contributions and selfless dedication of Edith and Grace Abbott to the citizens of Nebraska and the nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Grand Island to be affixed this ninth day of March in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Seventeenth.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeremy L. Jensen, Mayor

Attest:

  
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RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

