

City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 18, 2003 Council Session

Item C5

Proclamation "Abbott Sisters Day" March 20, 2003

March 20, 2003 is the second annual Abbott Sisters Day, and as was done last year, this event will be observed statewide as well as through this city's proclamation. The goal of Abbott Sisters Day is to raise public awareness of the lives and achievements of Edith and Grace Abbott, two Grand Island natives, 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 for future generations. See attached Proclamation.

Staff Contact: Steve Fosselman

City of Grand Island City Council





THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City of Grand Island State of Nebraska

PROCLAMATION

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 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 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, 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 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

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 Abbott Sisters Project, a project of the Grand Island Public

library Foundation, has as its goal to raise public awareness of the lives and achievements of Grace and Edith 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 for future generations.









NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Vavricek, Mayor of Grand Island, Nebraska, do hereby proclaim the $20^{\rm th}$ day of March, 2003 as

ABBOTT SISTERS' DAY

in the City of Grand Island, and I do hereby urge all citizens to recognize the remarkable contributions and selfless dedication of Grace and Edith 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 Eighteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Three.

	Mayor of Grand Island, Nebraska
Attest:	
	RaNae Edwards, City Clerk



