



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 08, 2005

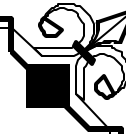

Council Session

Item C1

Proclamation "Abbott Sisters Day" March 20, 2005


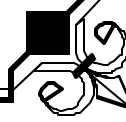
Abbott Sisters Day has been celebrated on March 20th throughout this city and the state since 2002. This day raises public awareness of the lives and achievements of Grand Island natives Edith and Grace Abbott, so that these important women may continue to influence policy on children's and immigrants' issues and so that their story may serve as an inspiration to future generations. This day of celebration is part of the Abbott Sisters Project, under the founding and ongoing sponsorship of the Grand Island Public Library Foundation. This year, an educational program and open house will be held at the Edith Abbott Memorial Library on Sunday, March 20th.

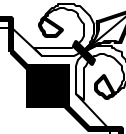

Staff Contact: Steve Fosselman



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

PROCLAMATION

- 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, 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
- 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.
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NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Vavricek, Mayor of Grand Island, Nebraska, do hereby
proclaim the 20th day of March, 2005 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 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 Eighth day of March,
in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Five.

Mayor of Grand Island, Nebraska

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

