



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Council Session

Item C2

Proclamation "Abbott Sisters Day" March 20, 2009

Edith and Grace Abbott "The Abbott Sisters of Nebraska" were born in the City of Grand Island. These two American women were important for their achievements to influence policy for the rights of children, immigrants, and women. To raise public awareness of the lives and achievements of Edith and Grace Abbott, the Mayor has proclaimed March 20, 2009 as "Abbott Sisters Day". See attached PROCLAMATION.

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 Grand Island Public Library Foundation, Inc. is the founding and ongoing sponsor of the Abbott Sisters Project; 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.

WHEREAS,

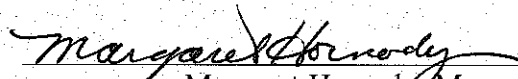
Abbott Sisters Day is being celebrated in Grand Island with a special program on Sunday, March 22, 2009 at the Edith Abbott Memorial Library to honor the public unveiling of a mural story-quilt featuring the fabric artwork of a group of local Sudanese-American girls, created under the supervision of noted quilt-artist Peggie Hartwell.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Margaret Hornady, Mayor of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, do hereby proclaim the 20th day of March, 2009 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 tenth day of March in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Nine.


Margaret Hornady, Mayor

Attest:


RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

