

Proclamation

**Recognizing Women's History Month and
International Women's Day**



WHEREAS, in 1987 Congress designated the month of March as Women's History Month, to honor women's contributions through history, and the theme for 2021 is "*Valiant Women of the Vote*" in honor of the women who strongly advocated for suffrage rights for women; and

WHEREAS, March 8th is International Women's Day, a day dedicated to the global celebration of women's achievements, the recognition of biases against women, and a call for action for equality, equity, inclusion, and justice for women everywhere; and

WHEREAS, women serve in our community in many places including in businesses, non-profits, and government, and I am thankful for the contributions of each of the women working for the City of Monroe, including the following women in leadership roles: Councilmember Patsy Cudaback, Councilmember and Mayor Pro Tem Heather Rousey, Judge Jessica Ness, City Administrator Deborah Knight, Finance Director Becky Hasart, Court Administrator Pam Haley, and Administrative Bureau Director Debbie Willis; and

WHEREAS, women have historically, and still today, perform a significant amount of uncompensated and undercompensated work, including at home, and we recognize and honor their substantial contributions that support families and our community; and

WHEREAS, we are a better people and a better local, national, and global community as a result of the strength, compassion, leadership, ingenuity, advocacy, and contributions of women from every background and lived experience; and

WHEREAS, despite the value that women bring to our society and inherently have as people, there remain biases in cultural and institutional systems across the globe, including in the United States, that restrict women's opportunities to be equals to men in important segments of life and society, thereby marginalizing and at times silencing women's voices while limiting their liberty to fully participate in government, our economy, and their own families, or even to exercise their natural freedom of personal choice in their own lives and futures; and

WHEREAS, while there have been advances in ensuring equal rights, we as a people need to do better to effectuate reforms across all segments of our society, economy, and government to ensure that women genuinely can realize the blessings of liberty in all its forms as men can.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, do hereby recognize March 2021 as

Women's History Month

and March 8, 2021 as

International Women's Day

AND FURTHER, I call upon everyone to listen to women's voices, to genuinely honor the inherent value of every woman, and to take actions to remove inequities, unjust rules, and cultural norms that limit women from realizing the blessings of liberty in all its forms as men can.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Thomas".

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor