



# Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1911, International Women's Day was first honored in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland, when more than one million women and men attended rallies campaigning for women's rights to work, vote, be trained, hold public office, and for an end to gender discrimination; and

WHEREAS, today, International Women's Day belongs to all groups collectively, everywhere; is not country, group, or organization specific; and, as Gloria Steinem, world-renowned feminist, journalist and activist once explained *"The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights;"* and

WHEREAS, 2017 and 2018 saw International Women's Day as the most discussed topic on Facebook by millions; this past year our country saw the rise of powerful movements that shine the light where women's rights and freedoms still fall short; and everywhere, gender is on the mainstream radar and impacting the narrative; and

WHEREAS, International Women's Day, is a day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women; to recognize acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities; to reflect on progress made; and to call for action for accelerating gender balance; and

WHEREAS, the International Women's Day 2019 theme is #BalanceforBetter; promoting the idea that everyone has a part to play to build a gender-balanced world - all the time, everywhere; and this balance drives a better working world. Let's all help create a #BalanceforBetter.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, Washington, do hereby recognize Friday, March 8, 2019, as

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

and encourage Monroe's residents to be a part of the #BalanceforBetter, motivating and uniting friends, colleagues, and the community to think, act, and accelerate gender parity.



Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor