

Office of the Mayor
City of Fayetteville
Proclamation



WHEREAS: on this day, April 14, we mark 150 years since Arkansas ratified the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which was instrumental in the abolition of slavery and involuntary servitude following the terrible devastation of the Civil War and which marked the beginning of our State's long reconstruction from a slave-holding society towards a natural state of fairness and equality among all citizenry regardless of race, and

WHEREAS: sadly, on the evening of the same day Arkansas became the twenty-first state to ratify the 13th Amendment, President Abraham Lincoln was fatally shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theatre and died the next morning, and

WHEREAS: this sesquicentennial provides an important opportunity in our State to recognize our successes - such as Fayetteville School District voting for integration in 1954, and our struggles - such as the Little Rock Crisis in which nine African-American students were denied entry to Central High School requiring federal intervention, as we continue to make gains and experience setbacks in what is history's long arc towards justice, and

WHEREAS: since the passage of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, our citizens have proven themselves ready to take on the difficult task of building a community that provides for all of its people, not just a powerful few; for when any one person is being oppressed, we are all oppressed. The binding of one person to the cruelties of bigotry enslaves everyone. For as long as one person suffers chains of discrimination, none of us is free. To be free requires standing together, and our community cannot stand tall if one of us is bound low, and

WHEREAS: so we come together today to ring the bells of justice and remembrance of this day 150 years ago when a wrong was finally righted and a people came together to start the slow process of healing and building towards a more unified and harmonious country built upon the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all of our nation's people. On this day at 1300 hours (1:00 p.m.) Fayetteville churches, public buildings, educational institutions, and individuals will be ringing bells thirteen times to celebrate Arkansas' ratification of the 13th Amendment,

NOW THEREFORE, I, Lioneld Jordan, Mayor of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas do hereby proclaim today, April 14, 2015 as

"ARKANSAS 13TH AMENDMENT RATIFICATION DAY"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City