

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, 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 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, 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 year 2004 marks the 30th anniversary of the Edith Abbott Memorial Library in Grand Island, and is a year of celebration of the 125th birthday of Grace Abbott; 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Vavricek, Mayor of Grand Island, Nebraska, do hereby
proclaim the 20th day of March, 2004 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 Ninth day of March,
in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Four.

Mayor of Grand Island, Nebraska

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk