

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Virginia Wallace Truman, wife of the 33rd President of the United States, Harry S. Truman, passed away in the early morning of October 18, 1982 at the age of 97. Mrs. Truman meant a lot to the citizens of the City. She avoided publicity and news coverage concerning herself and her affairs, but Mrs. Bess Truman's influence on her community was always positive and substantial; and

WHEREAS, As a young woman, she was a lively and an important part of the town's social circles. She was one of the founding members of the Community Welfare League of Independence and served as Vice-President of that organization. Her rectitude and dignity as the wife, companion, and confidante of Harry S. Truman through his years as a soldier, businessman, and politician have become a matter of public records. Her years as First Lady were marked with the same dignity, self-containment, and self-effacement that she demonstrated as the wife of a County Judge or the wife of a Senator from Missouri; and

WHEREAS, A proud and quiet individual, she executed the many necessary public duties as First Lady with an inherent dignity all her own. She withstood with criticism and inquisitiveness of peers and press with a demeanor that became her signature. She refused to let power and position change her attitude about herself or the world and treated all that she met with the same courteous and kind respect. A sense of duty, combined with a deep love for home and family, and a practical outlook on life's events helped to make Bess Truman a great First Lady. Mrs. Truman gave to the City of Independence by her example the very best in dignity, courage, humility, and quiet forbearance in a world that oftentimes loses sight of the importance of these virtues; and

WHEREAS, The city of her birth felt a great loss and void at her passing. Words are inadequate to express what this woman meant to the citizens of her community. We were honored by her residency, privileged by her acquaintance, and instructed by her commitments and ideals as illustrated through her own exemplary life. She is missed greatly.

THEREFORE, I, Rory R. Rowland, Mayor of Independence, Missouri do hereby proclaim October 18, 2022, as

BESS TRUMAN DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Independence, Missouri, to be affixed this 17th Day of October 2022.

MAYOR

Attest:

CITY CLERK