

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: September 8, 2009

SUBJECT: Proclamation – Louise Howe Bailey Day

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1.) Proclamation

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Reflections -from the Mirror of Her Mind, is a two-act play featuring stories of the history and heritage of Henderson County, and will be performed September 25 -27, 2009, in the Bo Thomas Auditorium at Blue Ridge Community College as a benefit for the nonprofit Henderson County Heritage Museum. The play is based on the life and writings of 94-year old Louise Howe Bailey, beloved county matriarch, who is the author of several books on the heritage of Henderson County and whose weekly column, *Along the Ridges*, has appeared in the Hendersonville Times-News for forty-two years.

The Friday evening performance of the play will be preceded by a reception honoring Louise Bailey for her many contributions to the community, which includes the preservation of the oral history of Henderson County. As part of the tribute to our local treasure, the Henderson County Board of Commissioners is requested to proclaim Friday, September 25, 2009, as Louise Howe Bailey Day in Henderson County. The board of directors of the Henderson County Historic Courthouse Corporation has asked that the councils of the five Henderson County municipalities join in that proclamation as a tribute to Louise Bailey.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to adopt the Proclamation proclaiming September 25, 2009 as Louise Howe Bailey Day, and authorize the Chairman to execute the Proclamation on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move that the Board adopt the attached Proclamation proclaiming September 25, 2009 as Louise Howe Bailey Day, and authorize the Chairman to execute the Proclamation on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

A PROCLAMATION

LOUISE HOWE BAILEY DAY IN HENDERSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

WHEREAS, Louise Howe Bailey, a Henderson County native and a beloved local historian, author, newspaper columnist, speaker and storyteller, has researched and chronicled events from the county's storied past, and in so doing has helped to preserve our cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, underlying her interest in local history is her family's continuous association with the area since 1829, when her great-great-grandfather, Judge Mitchell King of Charleston, South Carolina, was a founder of the Flat Rock summer colony of low country South Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, Louise Bailey was the daughter of a country doctor who practiced medicine in Henderson County, was the wife of a country doctor who practiced medicine in the county, and is the mother of a physician practicing medicine in the county today; and

WHEREAS, Louise Bailey earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Winthrop College in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and a Master of Science degree in library science at Columbia University in New York City, and held teaching and library positions in Edgefield, South Carolina, and at Winthrop College before returning home to Henderson County in 1947 with her husband, Dr. Joseph P. Bailey, who opened his Henderson County practice in Hendersonville; and

WHEREAS, Louise Bailey lives in a house her father built in 1927, *Laurelhurst*, in the midst of fifty wooded acres in the heart of Flat Rock; she is the steward of eighty-two acres of land in the Green River community that formerly was her father's camping and hunting grounds; and for years she has conducted tours of her beloved Church of St. John in the Wilderness in Flat Rock; and

WHEREAS, through her weekly newspaper column, "Along the Ridges," that has appeared in the Hendersonville *Times-New* for forty-two years and continues to run, Louise Bailey portrays local history and folklore, with a warm and informative perspective and often with her own special brand of humor, through human interest stories of people and events, many within her own recollection and others told by "old-timers" whose forebears charted the course of Henderson County; and

WHEREAS, Louise Bailey seeks not only to inform and entertain with her writing, but also to preserve and share history; and

WHEREAS, to many Louise Bailey is considered an inspiration, a mentor, a friend, an icon, and a local treasure;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Henderson County Board of Commissioners and the councils of the City of Hendersonville, the Town of Fletcher, the Town of Laurel Park, the Town of Mills River, and the Village of Flat Rock, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 25, 2009, as Louise Howe Bailey Day in Henderson County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed this document as of the twenty-fifth day of September 2009.

**HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS**

By: _____
William L. Moyer, Chairman

CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE

By: _____
Gregory A. Newman, Mayor

TOWN OF FLETCHER

By: _____
William Bill Moore, Mayor

TOWN OF LAUREL PARK

By: _____
Henry T. Johnson, Mayor

TOWN OF MILLS RIVER

By: _____
Roger D. Snyder, Mayor

VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK

By: _____
Robert V. Staton, Mayor