

# *Proclamation*

A proclamation by the Mayor of the City of Mary Esther, Florida  
commemorating the 217<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the  
United States Constitution.

**WHEREAS**, the people in North America who had fought and won their independence in the Revolutionary War (1775 – 1783) had forged a Declaration of Independence in 1776, establishing their government under the Articles of Confederation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Articles of Confederation were ratified in 1781, granting independence to each state but lacked authority to make the states work together to solve national problems, such as enforcing law and order, collecting taxes to absolve debt, regulating trade among themselves, or negotiating with other governments and Indian tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, a national convention met in Philadelphia in 1787 to revise the Articles of Confederation, but instead decided to write a new plan of government, the Constitution of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, this document has served our mighty nation well, with a total of **27** amendments since its inception. The Bill of Rights encompassed the first 10 amendments in 1791, and 17 other amendments have been enacted over the past 107 years, the most recent in 1992 granting congressional pay.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor of the City of Mary Esther wishes to encourage all citizens to study and reflect on this powerful document, and express gratitude for the privilege of being an American as we observe the 217<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its signing during Constitution Week this September 17<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Mary Esther to be affixed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year two thousand four.

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John Thomas  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Laura Aldrich  
City Clerk