



# Proclamation

## By the Mayor of Prattville, Alabama

*WHEREAS*, Helen Marie Owens was born in Pine Level, Alabama in 1954 and graduated from Goshen High School in May 1972; and

*WHEREAS*, Helen married her high school sweetheart, Willie George Urquhart, in 1974 and shortly thereafter, in 1975, she began her career with the Federal Government as a Clerk-Steno, GS-3, at the Veterans' Administration Hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama; and

*WHEREAS*, Mrs. Urquhart began her journey on Maxwell Air Force Base on 5 November 1979 with the Environmental Information Division, which was a part of the Air University Library. The responsibilities of this office were transferred to Fairchild Air Force Base, which resulted in a reduction in force (RIF). The RIF landed Helen a position at Squadron Officer College as a clerk-steno and secretary from 1981-1993; and

*WHEREAS*, Helen was promoted in 1993 to a Secretary position at Officer Training School, 23d Training Squadron. Later, when this squadron was abolished, she became the Secretary to the Commander, Commissioned Officer Training Squadron, then located on Gunter Air Force Base; and

*WHEREAS*, through hard work and skill, Helen was then promoted to become a Flag Officer Course Manager for the Joint Flag Officer Warfighting Course (JFOWC) at the College of Aerospace Doctrine, Research and Education, now known as the LeMay Center, arranging protocol requirements for general officers who attended war fighting courses, as well as distinguished visitors supporting the effort as speakers. During these nine years (1997-2006), Helen won numerous awards to include Civilian of the Year, two years back-to-back; Civilian of the Quarter Award after each two week course held then in March and September of each year; and

*WHEREAS*, Helen was promoted to Protocol Coordinator at Air University Protocol, Headquarters Air University (March 2006-August 2006) and then moved over to Air Command and Staff College in this same capacity. Helen has been in this position ever since much to the joy of those she serves; and

*WHEREAS*, these last 37 years on Maxwell and Gunter Air Force Bases have allowed Helen to provide protocol support for many distinguished visitors to include military and civilians; and

*WHEREAS*, Helen retires effective 1 July 2016 with 41 years of Federal Service; and

*WHEREAS*, Helen has been a blessing to Gunter Air Force Base, Maxwell Air Force Base, as well as the City of Prattville Mayor's Office during her years of service to this nation and the military community.

*NOW THEREFORE*, I, Bill Gillespie Jr., Mayor of the City of Prattville, Alabama, do hereby commend and recognize

## Helen Owens Urquhart

For her many accomplishments to include her many awards, her service and the standard she set in Protocol and all other areas in which she contributed.



Given Under My Hand and the Seal of the City of Prattville on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 2016.

*Bill Gillespie Jr.*

Mayor Bill Gillespie Jr.