

Certificate of Recognition

WHEREAS, the recently celebrated Women's History Month honors the spirit of possibility and hope set in motion by generations of women in their creation of communities and their encouragement of dreams, and

WHEREAS, St. Augustine's great contribution to modern American history was the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, in which women played a vital, often under appreciated, role in the civil rights movement that changed America and inspired the world, and

WHEREAS, Women endured beatings, shootings, fire bombings, jail, and countless other threats and acts, while working to advance the cause of civil rights, and

WHEREAS, Women, as students, parents, teachers and administrators, played a significant role in the desegregation of public schools, and took part in all the dramatic episodes of the civil rights movement in St. Augustine, demonstrating to the world the wrongs of segregation, and

WHEREAS, Women have played a leading role in continuing to celebrate and honor the achievements of the civil rights movement, through the placement of historic markers, the organization of annual Martin Luther King Breakfast programs, and the passing of information to new generations, and

WHEREAS, the Anniversary to Commemorate the Civil Rights Demonstrations, Inc. (ACCORD) was established in St. Augustine in 2003 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the civil rights struggle here in 1963 and 1964, and

WHEREAS, on April 4th, 2006, the 38th Anniversary of the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., ACCORD has arranged a visit to St. Augustine by Ms. Dora McDonald, Dr. King's personal secretary, aide, and confidante, as an appropriate place to mark this day because of Dr. King's connection with the Ancient City.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, honoring both the vital role played by the women of the Civil Rights Movement of St. Augustine - whom Dr. King declared to be "heroes of St. Augustine" - and noting the occasion of this visit by his longtime friend, secretary, and confidante, hereby presents this Certificate of Recognition, and urges our citizens to remember and honor the women of the Civil Rights Movement of St. Augustine.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of St. Augustine to be affixed this 4th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and six and the four hundred and fortieth year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.

George Gardner, Mayor