

## American Cancer Society 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the American Cancer Society, originally named the American Society for the Control of Cancer, was established in 1913 and has 100 years of milestones in the fight against cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Women's Field Army started raising money and educating the public about cancer in 1937, and in 1944 the American Cancer Society prioritized funding cancer research which to date has funded 46 Nobel Laureates and is the largest nongovernmental, not-for-profit funder of cancer research; and

**WHEREAS**, the organization made a connection between lung cancer and smoking in 1950, which has led to education and laws that have greatly reduced smoking rates. The American Cancer Society helped seek passage of the Cancer Act of 1971 which established the National Cancer Institute and now funds billions of dollars annually for research; and

**WHEREAS**, the now largest grassroots fundraising event in the world, Relay For Life, was launched by an American Cancer Society volunteer in 1985 and has raised over \$3 billion to date and raises \$400 million annually to fund research, education, advocacy and service for cancer patients; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1997 the American Cancer Society opened the doors to the National Cancer Information Center which receives nearly 1 million calls seeking cancer information a year, and for the first time in history, in 2006, the actual number of cancer deaths in the United States declined thanks in large part to the American Cancer Society's groundbreaking work in cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012 the American Cancer Society reported cancer death rates declined by 20 percent, which is 1.2 million lives saved. Thursday, May 22, 2013 the American Cancer Society, the official sponsor of Birthdays, will mark this illustrious organizations 100th year of existence and service to those affected by cancer and their loved ones; now

**THEREFORE, I**, H. Joanne Masten, Mayor of the Town of Smyrna, do hereby officially proclaim May 22, 2013 as

### AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY DAY

Furthermore, I urge all citizens of our town to join together to Finish the Fight against this disease.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2013.



H. Joanne Masten  
Mayor, Town of Smyrna