

Proclamation

Georgia Rotary Student Program

WHEREAS, The Georgia Rotary Student Program was established in 1946 through the efforts of Rotarian William A. “Mr. Will” Watt of the Rotary Club of Thomasville; and

WHEREAS, Will Watt's dream was for students from war-torn Europe, eager for peace, could come to the United States and study in Georgia colleges and universities and learn about the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, Only four scholars participated in the first class, and now more than 3,692 alumni from more than 114 countries, represent GRSP; and

WHEREAS, This program is still one-of-a-kind throughout the Rotary world; and

WHEREAS, GRSP is celebrating 75 years of building Peace and Friendships around the world; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Rotarians believe “Peace is Possible” and through GRSP promotes international goodwill through friendship and understanding; and

WHEREAS, Rotarians in Districts 6900, 6910, and 6920 have promoted world peace through understanding by offering scholarships to international students for one year of study in Georgia colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, GRSP provides scholarships to advance cultural understanding and social experiences through friendship, develops potential global leaders, and expands the ideals of Rotary around the world; and

WHEREAS, GRSP student scholars become adopted members of a Georgia Rotary Club “host family,” while living on-campus and often spend weekends and holidays with host parents; and

WHEREAS, Each year, about 50 students from all over the world make friends in the United States and other nations and learn about differing cultures and life styles; and

WHEREAS, Members of Rotary Districts 6900, 6910, and 6920 gather today to dedicate the GRSP Peace Plaza made possible by the Generations of Generosity Donors; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Thomasville in celebration of its 100 years of service desired to partner with the Georgia Rotary Student Program and the Courtyard® by Marriott® Thomasville Downtown to create the GRSP Peace Plaza and Will Watt Memorial Fountain, thereby recognizing Will Watt’s contributions to promoting peace around the world; and

WHEREAS, GRSP operates with guidance from the following **Values**:

Diversity of people, cultures, beliefs, and perspectives

Leadership Development locally, nationally, and globally

Integrity and the highest of ethical standards

Service above self

Fellowship among all

Respect of different perspectives

Peace and Understanding among people and nations

THEREFORE, I, John H. ‘Jay’ Flowers, Mayor of Thomasville, Georgia, do hereby proclaim January 22, 2022, as GRSP Celebration Day in the City of Thomasville, and encourage all citizens to join me in celebrating the 75th Anniversary of GRSP and in the dedication of the GRSP Peace Plaza including the Will Watt Memorial Fountain.

SO DONE, this the 22nd day of January 2022.

John H. Flowers

John H. Flowers, Mayor