

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, Native Americans, primarily the Miami Tribe, used the area in what was to become Bloomington, Indiana, as their hunting ground long before European settlers arrived. They cultivated and preserved the land, respecting the spectacular beauty and abundant natural resources of the pristine wilderness; and
- WHEREAS, many Native Americans of the Miami Tribe still live in Indiana, even though by the late 1700s and early 1800s, Native American populations had largely been removed from Indiana lands and the area became home to settlers and hunters primarily from Britain and France; and
- WHEREAS, Monroe County, named for President James Monroe, was created by an Act of the Indiana General Assembly in 1818 and, as the county seat, the city of Bloomington was established on April 10th of that year; and
- WHEREAS, the roots of Bloomington began on an old wheat field, and the town was described as being “crude, rough and muddy” for the first few years. But from its inception, Bloomington was a special place, inhabited by resilient, conscientious and hardworking women and men who would lay the groundwork for generations to come; and
- WHEREAS, believing that education was necessary for representative government, Congress granted Indiana one township of land to support a seminary as part of its admission to statehood in 1816. In 1820, Governor Jonathan Jennings approved the act creating the State Seminary in Bloomington. The Seminary opened in 1824 and became a college four years later. In 1838, the college was designated a university, and the growth of Indiana University encouraged the academic character that would shape much of our community’s history; and
- WHEREAS, the mid to late 1800s brought tremendous growth in local industry. In 1868, brothers James and William Showers bought out their father’s share of a small furniture and coffin shop and opened a furniture factory, the predecessor of the building which now houses City Hall; and
- WHEREAS, in the early years of the twentieth century, sewers, streets and sidewalks improved living conditions for Monroe County residents choosing to live “in town” and population increased due in large part to new factories opening and the industry of the local limestone quarries; and
- WHEREAS, the Depression brought great hardship to Bloomington, with the Showers Brothers Furniture Company and limestone industry feeling the effects of the struggling economy. As always, local residents were resilient in the face of difficulty; and
- WHEREAS, then followed a period of great residential growth and the expansion of local industry. In 1940, RCA relocated a major manufacturing plant to Bloomington. The plant at one time had a workforce of over 8,000 employees. Sarkes Tarzian, Incorporated opened in 1944 and soon would become one of the country’s leading manufacturers of radio and television equipment; and

WHEREAS, Bloomington weathered the dark days of World War II by proudly pitching in, following government rations on food, gas and rubber, and reading reports from Hoosier journalist Ernie Pyle as he covered front-line action from France, Italy and North Africa; and

WHEREAS, many men and women of Bloomington proudly served our country in all branches of the military throughout history and are recognized for their great sacrifice and service; and

WHEREAS, ever growing, ever changing, Bloomington held on to its unique qualities during the middle and latter part of the 20th century with the revitalization of the city's downtown thanks to the vision of Bill Cook and those who worked to save our courthouse. Anchor organizations Indiana University and Bloomington Hospital continued to grow as Ivy Tech Community College was established in 1963, and the Monroe County Community School System attracted young families to the area while gaining national recognition for its innovative curriculum; and

WHEREAS, ever evolving, ever learning, Bloomington is proud of its strong commitment to diversity, inclusion and fundamental human rights. We welcome with open arms people from around the world, celebrating their music, culture, foods, faiths and languages; and

WHEREAS, today, in the early years of the 21st century and the third millennium, Bloomington is at the forefront of technology and medical device development and is home to one of the country's most respected research universities. We remember the lessons of the past, consider our place in the present and look forward to a future of exciting opportunities. Our inclusive, eclectic community has much to be proud of as we celebrate our 200th birthday.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John Hamilton, Mayor of the City of Bloomington, do hereby proclaim 2018 as

Bloomington's Bicentennial Year

in Bloomington, Indiana.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed, the Seal of the City of Bloomington this 29th day of December 2017.



John Hamilton
Mayor, City of Bloomington