

Proclamation of Lady Bird Johnson as an “Honorary Green Thumb Champion”

December 2015

WHEREAS; In his first State of the Union address on January 8, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced the War on Poverty, and

WHEREAS; Lady Bird Johnson voiced her opinion that the “green thumbs” of poor retired farmers could help beautify America while they earned much needed income, and

WHEREAS; Through the ingenuity and vision for an improved quality of life for older individuals and expanded community services, several initiatives were established as part of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, leading to authorization and funding of Green Thumb in December 1965, and

WHEREAS; The National Farmers Union sponsored Green Thumb between 1965 and 1983, and partnered to deliver vital services and programs throughout rural America, and

WHEREAS; The Green Thumb program has grown in size and scope to become the Senior Community Service Employment Program authorized under the Older Americans Act, administered by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration, operated by numerous national, state and local organizations and municipal entities in every state and territory, and

WHEREAS; Lady Bird Johnson was an unwavering ally and supporter of the program from its inception and throughout her life, now therefore be it

RESOLVED; In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the genesis of a program that today continues to help hundreds of thousands of older workers obtain employment, contribute to their communities and age with dignity, **the Boards of Directors of National Farmers Union and Experience Works posthumously proclaim Lady Bird Johnson an Honorary Green Thumb Champion.**



Roger Johnson, President

Sally Boofer, President & CEO