

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

Proclamation

WHEREAS Jeanette Robbins Rhamsey was born on March 19, 1922, in the town of San Diego to L.S. and Natalie Robbins, and dreamed of flying as a young girl. She learned to fly in Yuma, Arizona, while running a small airstrip during the early days of World War II; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, the United States was faced with a severe shortage of pilots. Jeanette was one of 1,074 female pilots to earn silver wings in the Women Airforce Service Pilots Program- WASP for short - flying military aircraft in noncombat roles during wartime to free up male pilots for combat; and

WHEREAS, in 1943, Jeanette began her journey in the WASP at Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas, training in Boeing Stearman PT-19s, BT-13 Valiants and AT-6 Trainers, testing and ferrying repaired aircraft, and helping train air and infantry gunners; and

WHEREAS the women pilots were considered civilians until Congress retroactively granted them veteran status in 1977; and, in 2010, Jeanette and the surviving WASPs were awarded the Congressional Gold medal, among the nation's highest civilian honors, inspiring future generations of female military and civilian pilots; and

WHEREAS, after WASP disbanded in December 1944, Jeanette travelled the world as a military wife and mother, followed a career in social work, then retired to India for many years to study with her spiritual teacher; and

WHEREAS Jeanette now lives on Hawai'i Island and stays active by reading, exercising, and enjoying her yard; and

WHEREAS longevity of life is a blessing for an individual, their 'ohana, and an entire community which benefits from the knowledge, creativity, and experiences this individual brings to all; and

WHEREAS Jeanette Robbins Rhamsey will celebrate her 100th Birthday on March 19, 2022.

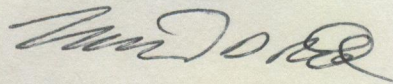
NOW, THEREFORE, I, MITCHELL D. ROTH, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim March 19, 2022, as

JEANETTE ROBBINS RHAMSEY DAY

in the County of Hawai'i, and salute Jeanette for her fearless service with the WASP, and wish her good health, happiness and prosperity, and many more blessed years to come.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused The Seal of the County of Hawai'i to be affixed. Done this 19th day of March 2022, in Hilo, Hawai'i.




MITCHELL D. ROTH
MAYOR