



## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** the Town of Sanford was incorporated on February 11, 1874, as a 1-square mile town located in Moore County with only 236 residents, and in 1947 merged with the neighboring Town of Jonesboro to become the City of Sanford; and
- WHEREAS,** on February 6, 2024, Mayor Rebecca Wyhof Salmon proclaimed February 11, 2024, through February 11, 2025, as Sanford’s Sesquicentennial Year and encouraged the community to recognize, appreciate, and build upon our community’s story in celebration of its 150th birthday; and
- WHEREAS,** a Sesquicentennial Committee was formed to explore Sanford’s rich history and exciting future, and the committee members were Wendy Bryan from the Visit Sanford Tourism Development Authority, Kelli Laudate from Downtown Sanford, Inc., and Kelly Miller from the City of Sanford, with Bob Joyce as the chair person; and
- WHEREAS,** the Committee’s goal was to give all residents, businesses, organizations, and visitors the opportunity to participate in Sanford’s 150th birthday celebration through a variety of events, activities, and materials that showcased Sanford’s inclusive and innovative spirit; and
- WHEREAS,** the Committee started the Sesquicentennial Year celebration by creating commemorative coins that were given to each municipal employee as well as hidden at a different location inside the city limits each weekend for the entire year, inspiring residents to explore the city each week; and
- WHEREAS,** to share Sanford’s rich history, the Committee published a weekly Sesqui Segment to social media that included photos and facts sourced from local historians Jimmy Haire, Woody Seymour, and Hunter Randolph, and the community came to look forward to the segments with many asking for them to continue after the Sesquicentennial Year passed; and

**WHEREAS,** the public was provided many opportunities to show their pride in Sanford and its history through purchasing themed shirts, sweatshirts, hats, posters, and ornaments provided the Visit Sanford Tourism Development Authority and through learning more about the sesquicentennial at events throughout the year hosted by Downtown Sanford, Inc.;

**WHEREAS,** through his enthusiasm for Sanford’s history and willingness to help, Hunter Randolph with the Lee County Library became an unofficial member of the Sesquicentennial Committee and could be relied upon to lead downtown walking tours, share interesting historical stories and photos, confirm facts or sort through some “tall tales” to bring the most accurate information available to the public; and

**WHEREAS,** the Committee hosted a 150th Birthday Bash on April 5, 2024, to celebrate Sanford’s official incorporation 150 years earlier with cake and ice cream, and current and past elected officials and community leaders joined together to sing “Happy Birthday” and spend the day celebrating with the community through live music, games, inflatables, agricultural activities, historic displays, and even a mini train; and

**WHEREAS,** at the Downtown Sanford StreetFest in October, the Committee, along with City staff and members of the Sanford City Council, spent the day sharing plans and discussing ideas for how Sanford might look in the future, including ways to encourage small businesses, entrepreneurship, and growth while retaining the unique charm that makes our city special;

**WHEREAS,** as the last big activity to celebrate Sanford’s Sesquicentennial Year, the Committee held the Sesqui Coin Quest, a mega-hunt for 24 vouchers hidden across the city and county that could be redeemed for a commemorative coin, which brought a flurry of activity to downtown in nearly the exact spot where our city was founded 150 years ago; and

**WHEREAS,** throughout the year, civic and school groups joined in the fun by organizing their own sesquicentennial activities, such as the Sanford Appearance Commission’s commemorative tree program, the Lee Regional Fair’s train-themed Lego contest, a special 150th award at the Brush and Palette Club’s annual Art Show, and collaborations with the Lions Club, Kiwanis Club of Sanford, and Greenwood Elementary School; and

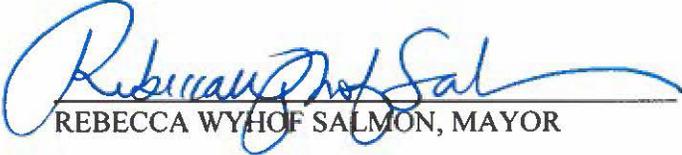
**WHEREAS,** from its beginning to the present day, Sanford has been shaped by people from all backgrounds and beliefs – from the 1880 census records showing 126 white residents and 110 African American residents to the 2020 census that shows 31,224 people of diverse races and ethnicities – with all residents contributing to the city’s rich history, current success, and vibrant future; and

**WHEREAS,** Sanford's Sesquicentennial Year was a reflection of our common experiences and goals, a celebration of our many successes, and a reminder that the thriving community we love was created by relying on each other during times of hardship as well as during times of triumph;

**NOW,**  
**THEREFORE,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Sanford, I, Rebecca Wyhof Salmon, do hereby recognize the crucial role the Sesquicentennial Committee played in bringing this year of celebration to our community and for showing their deep love for our city; and also extend my gratitude to those who shared their stories and to each and every volunteer, business, and organization for investing their time and efforts into honoring Sanford's 150 years of determination, resilience, and achievement.

In witness thereof, I hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Sanford to be affixed this 1st day of April, 2025.



  
REBECCA WYHOF SALMON, MAYOR