



A PROCLAMATION FOR A SPECIAL DAY

*On the occasion of the observance of National Parents Day, this Proclamation is issued **FOR***

WHEREAS, *parents play a unique and irreplaceable part in the lives of their children, passing along values that help them grow into responsible adults, providing their sons and daughters with positive examples, giving them the necessary foundations needed to make wise decisions throughout their lives, and enhancing their development, strengthening their children's education, and impacting their children's choices; AND*

WHEREAS, *each year there are more than 2.4 million divorcing North Americans, including the parents of more than 1 million children under the age of eighteen, and with also nearly as many again involving unmarried couples with children separating; AND*

WHEREAS, *each year there are more than 2 million children traumatized by removals from their own homes by social services, and when only one-third are substantiated; AND*

WHEREAS, *America has a duty to provide its children with the support and skills they need to become the next generation of responsible leaders, underscoring the importance of fostering the unique quality of parental love, encouragement, and protection that confidently empowers their children to become happy and successful adults; AND*

WHEREAS, *America was founded on the belief that all persons are created equal, and have an unalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and our country remains committed to upholding that founding principle, including the natural and time-honored rights of parents to direct, provide for, and safeguard their children; SO:*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ray Baker, Mayor of the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 26th, 2009 as

NATIONAL PARENTS DAY

in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

I salute all the outstanding parents who strive to be excellent role models for their children and who dedicate themselves to manifest the highest standards of unconditional true love. Outstanding parents help to truly make

"LIFE WORTH LIVING IN FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS"



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set forth my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas to be affixed this 24th day of July, 2009

Ray Baker, Mayor