

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the cherry tree is an essential part of the City of Salem's history, culture, environment, and economy; and

WHEREAS, Salem's first Cherry Festival was held in 1903 with a three-day celebration; and

WHEREAS, in 1907, the Pacific Coast Association of Nurserymen adopted a resolution declaring Salem to have the "greatest and finest display of cherries known in history;" and

WHEREAS, in 1913, the Salem "Cherrians" organization was established to host an annual Blossom Day; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, the City of Salem and Kawagoe City, Japan, entered into a Sister City relationship to strengthen the bonds between our cities; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, more than 150 Akebono flowering cherry trees were planted on the Capitol Mall; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Oregon's Legislative Assembly adopted Senate Bill 146, designating the third Saturday in March as Cherry Blossom Day; and

WHEREAS, residents and visitors enjoy strolling under the cherry trees in the Capitol Mall, admiring the blossoms and observing the history recorded on the stone pavers; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Chuck Bennett, Mayor of the City of Salem, hereby proclaim March 17, 2018, to be

CHERRY BLOSSOM DAY

in Salem and encourage all residents and visitors to join in this observance.

DATED this twelfth day of March, 2018.



Chuck Bennett, Mayor