



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Kay Smith was born in Southern Illinois and moved to Chicago to study at the School of the Art Institute; and

WHEREAS, Kay Smith began her career as an illustrator, she was commissioned to complete a series of paintings capturing the heritage and culture of the United States for the 1976 Bicentennial, this series grew to include more than 250 paintings and sketches and is the largest collection of its kind done by a single artist; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her American Legacy Collection, Kay Smith has completed her Great American Racehorses Collection, the Hemingway Collection, and has re-created a Tuskegee Airmen WWII air fight scene for the Pritzker Military Museum; and

WHEREAS, Kay Smith's work has been exhibited around the country including the Executive Mansion in Springfield, IL, Yorktown Victory Center in Virginia, The Pritzker Military Museum and Library; and

WHEREAS, Kay Smith has taught watercolor at Old Town Triangle Art Center for 20 years educating and inspiring the next generation of artists and painters; and

WHEREAS, Kay Smith has been honored with the George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and was named Artist Laureate of Illinois by the Lincoln Academy; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2023, Kay Smith will mark her milestone 100th birthday, and I could not be more proud to join her family and friends in commemorating this occasion:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LORI E. LIGHTFOOT, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim February 27, 2023 to be KAY SMITH DAY IN CHICAGO in honor of an extraordinary woman and artist.

Dated this 27th day of February, 2023.


Mayor