



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Daniel L. Hightower was born and raised in Lakeland, Florida. After graduating from Lakeland High School, he attended Stetson University in DeLand where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. He then attended Stetson Law School in St. Petersburg, earning his Juris Doctorate degree. While there, he was elected as a Justice to the Honor Court and appointed to the Stetson Law Review Board; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from law school in 1973, Mr. Hightower and his wife moved to Ocala and he joined the Green, Simmons, & Green Law Firm. He worked one year as a part-time Assistant State Attorney in 1974, prosecuting felony crimes. After fourteen years with the same firm, Mr. Hightower started his own law firm, Daniel L. Hightower, P.A., in 1987, focusing on Personal Injury, Wrongful Death and Workers' Compensation cases; and

WHEREAS, during his professional career, Mr. Hightower served as Chairman of the Fifth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee of The Florida Bar in 1982 and was elected President of the Marion County Bar Association in 1984. Mr. Hightower was appointed by Governor Bob Martinez in 1988 to the Fifth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission. The Marion County Bar Association awarded Mr. Hightower the Rick Custereri Pro Bono Award for the free legal services he personally provided to people unable to afford a lawyer in 2006. Mr. Hightower was inducted into the Charter Class of the Florida Workers' Compensation Institute Hall of Fame in 2012. He was awarded the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award in 2011 and he received the Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award from Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida in 2017. Mr. Hightower holds an AV® Preeminent™ rating from the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, the nation's oldest lawyer peer review publication; and

WHEREAS, Dan joined Ocala Jaycees and helped them prepare for and put on God and Country Day on July 4th for all in our community to attend and celebrate. He joined the Ocala-Silver Springs Rotary Club and several years later served on their board of directors; and

WHEREAS, Dan was a member of the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade Committee in the early years and, with others, helped plan and organize that special event for our community. Dan has been a long-time proactive supporter of Interfaith Emergency Services of Marion County, as well as, Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, which provides free legal services to those in our community unable to afford a lawyer.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kent Guinn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, Florida, do hereby publicly recognize attorney Daniel L. Hightower for the remarkable achievement of having practiced law for fifty years, and for being a highly respected member of the legal community in Ocala since 1973.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Ocala, Florida, to be affixed this 1st day of November 2023.

Kent Guinn, Mayor
City of Ocala

