PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Commemoration is hereby pronounced in West Linn from the 14th through the 15th of March 2003. This period is a time for the citizens of West Linn to join thousands of others across the country in learning about and celebrating the magnificent network of lands known as the National Wildlife Refuge System which we, as United States citizens, have set aside for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Commemoration recognizes almost a century of conservation in the United States. President Theodore Roosevelt established the first National Wildlife Refuge -- Pelican Island in Florida -- in 1903 to protect herons, egrets, and other colonial water birds. During his presidency, Mr. Roosevelt created 55 additional refuges; and

WHEREAS, today the National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses more than 530 national wildlife refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas across the United States, including one or more in every state and U.S. territory. Covering more than 93 million acres of land, the National Wildlife Refuge System is the only public land system in the world dedicated to wildlife and conserving wildlife habitat. National wildlife refuges encompass every kind of ecosystem in the U.S. including temperate, tropical, and boreal forests, wetlands, deserts, grasslands, and remote islands and support hundreds of endangered and threatened wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, most national wildlife refuges are open to the public so that all can enjoy hunting, fishing, wildlife photography and observation, and environmental education and interpretation, while learning about our natural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, one of the newest in Oregon, is under development within our metropolitan community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DAVID DODDS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WEST LINN, in recognition of this important event, do hereby proclaim March 14th and 15th in West Linn as:

National Wildlife Refuge Commemoration

Dated this 5th day of March 2003.

David Dodds, Mayor