

In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS: *The holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and*

WHEREAS: *Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and*

WHEREAS: *Trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, lower our heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife; and*

WHEREAS: *Trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and*

WHEREAS: *Trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and*

WHEREAS: *Trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kevin Ruane, Mayor of the City of Sanibel, Lee County Florida, on behalf of the members of the City Council and the citizens of Sanibel, do hereby declare January 18, 2013 as Arbor Day in the State of Florida, and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Sanibel to be affixed hereto.