



Cochise County Board of Supervisors

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PROCLAMATION

Recognition of Effie Anderson Smith, Artist and Resident of Cochise County

WHEREAS, Effie Anderson Smith (1869-1955), known in her lifetime as Mrs. A.Y. Smith, was a 55-year resident of Cochise County (in Benson, Pearce, and Douglas); and

WHEREAS, Effie Anderson Smith came to Cochise County as a pioneer in 1895 from Arkansas, married Scottish railroad and mining engineer Andrew Young Smith that year in Bisbee, and after one year in Benson, settled at the mining camp at Pearce in 1896 (where A.Y. Smith rose to Manager and President of the Commonwealth Silver and Gold Mine); and

WHEREAS, Effie Anderson Smith's evolution as a desert landscape painter developed during the her long residency in Pearce (1896-1941) as she painted in her Pearce home and traveled with her husband by horseback and auto around Cochise County, sketching and painting scenes of the Chiricahua Mountains, Wonderland of Rocks and Cave Creek Canyon, vistas of the Sulphur Springs Valley, the Dragoon Mountains, Treaty Rocks and Cochise Stronghold, the Swissshelms, the Mirages on Willcox Playa, and also became nationally known for her depictions of the Grand Canyon; and

WHEREAS, Effie Anderson Smith was the first known artist to infuse the Impressionist technique she learned from California masters with the raw natural beauty of Arizona's deserts, mountains, canyons, and native cacti and flora; and

WHEREAS, Effie Anderson Smith taught desert landscape painting to dozens of local Douglas and Cochise County women, young and mature, in her home in Pearce (1930s) and seasonally in her studio at the Hotel Gadsden (1941-51) and to the wives of servicemen in Douglas during World War II; and

WHEREAS, By the time of Effie Anderson Smith's 80th birthday in 1949 was celebrated she was acclaimed nationally and in the Douglas Daily Dispatch as "The Dean of Arizona Women Painters", having exhibited and sold her Arizona desert landscapes in galleries from California to New York, hundreds of known works, many still today in the homes of descendants of Cochise County pioneer families who knew the artist, as well as at the Douglas Historical Society and in the art collection at Cochise College; and

WHEREAS, Effie Anderson Smith took leadership roles in the Arizona Federation of Women's Clubs as Art Chairman for the Southern District, as a founding member of the League of American Penwomen, and a founding artist in the earliest exhibits of the Tucson Fine Arts Association; and

WHEREAS, the 150th birthday anniversary of Effie Anderson Smith is September 29th, 2019 and will be observed with exhibits and displays of E.A. Smith's most important art works in Tucson, Douglas, and Pearce during 2019; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Cochise County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims a celebration for the sesquicentennial year of Effie Anderson Smith in Cochise County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2019.

Peggy Judd, Chairman

Patrick G. Call, Vice-Chairman

Ann English, Supervisor

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