



Proclamation

HONORING BETTIE JANE BENDER CELEBRATING HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

WHEREAS, Bettie Jane Bender is celebrating her 100th birthday on October 3, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Bettie was born in Rock Port, Missouri to George and Molly Makings in 1925 and moved to Smithville in 1926 with her family when she was nine months old for her father to take a job in construction building the Jefferson Highway; and

WHEREAS, Bettie was the Smithville Homecoming Queen in 1942 and graduated from Smithville High School in May 1943; and

WHEREAS, Bettie married Lowell Bender on June 14, 1945 after he returned from serving in the Marines during World War II and received a Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, Bettie and Lowell were married for 59 years and blessed with three children, Diana Perkins, Nancy Little and Debbie Herbst, seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Bettie and Lowell owned a 48-acre farm east of Smithville but after the flood of 1965 they relocated their family to a home in downtown Smithville, reflecting both the challenges faced and the resilience shown by community members during that time; and

WHEREAS, Bettie has lived during the most eventful century of this nation's history and has been a role model and inspiration to her family and to the Smithville community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Damien Boley, Mayor of the City of Smithville, Missouri, do hereby proclaim

OCTOBER 3, 2025 AS BETTIE BENDER DAY IN THE CITY OF SMITHVILLE

and on behalf of the Board of Aldermen and citizens of Smithville, offer sincere congratulations and best wishes to Bettie Jane Bender for many more happy days to share with family and friends.

PROCLAIMED THIS 23rd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025

Damien Boley, Mayor