Proclamation

by the Mayor
of the City of Urbana, Illinois

WHEREAS, the Thomas Paine Elementary School located in Urbana, Illinois is named after the great patriot, Thomas Paine; and

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2009, students and teachers of the Thomas Paine Elementary School will host Margaret Downey, a representative of the Thomas Paine Foundation, in order to learn more about Thomas Paine; and

WHEREAS, in October 1775, Thomas Paine began to write his pamphlet *Common Sense* in defense of breaking away from the British Empire thus inspiring the birth of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, on October 29, 1782, Thomas Paine published *The Crisis Number 12*; and

WHEREAS, in October 1792, Thomas Paine helps to draft the new French Constitution; and

WHEREAS, in 1795, the second part of Thomas Paine's *The Age of Reason* is published; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Paine returned to America from France on October 30, 1802; and

WHEREAS, the writings of Thomas Paine acknowledge that freedom depends on people who form opinions based on reason, independent of tradition, authority or prescribed dogmas; and

WHEREAS, the writings of Thomas Paine inspired people throughout the world to strive for political, economic and social advance; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Paine is duly noted as being one of the first to call for an end to slavery and the establishments of human rights around the world; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the date of October 28, will be a day to honor the life and accomplishments of Thomas Paine.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor of the City of Urbana, Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 28, 2009 as

THOMAS PAINE DAY

and ask citizens to join in this celebration by honoring his memory with special events and thoughtful recognition. All citizens are encouraged to learn more about this great historical figure.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Urbana to be affixed this 28th day of October in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and nine.

Laurel Lunt Prussing

LAUREL LUNT PRUSSING, MAYOR

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