

City of Grand Prairie

Proclamation

Office of the Mayor & City Council



WHEREAS, Purple Martins, members of the swallow family, are unique to the western hemisphere. They breed throughout North America each summer including numerous colonies in the Metroplex; and

WHEREAS, Purple Martins nest only in houses and gourds supplied for them by their human landlords. They no longer nest in the wild and thus are dependent upon us for their continued survival; and

WHEREAS, Purple Martins are highly valued for many reasons, both practical and aesthetic. Martins feed entirely on flying insects, many of which are "pests" to people, crops, and domestic animals. Thus their economic value is great; and

WHEREAS, besides their value as consumers of insect pests, and their unique status as a human dependent species, martins are well-known as one of the best loved bird species in North America and are legally protected by the Migration Bird Act of 1918; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1,000,000+ people put up martin housing each year and their devotion to the birds is repaid with gurgling songs, aerial displays of skill and grace, and the joy of seeing nestlings hatched and fledged each year; and

WHEREAS, The Purple Martin Landlords of North Texas (the only Purple Martin Club in Texas), established in Grand Prairie in 1999, brings together Purple Martin conservationists from across the Metroplex to perpetuate this human dependent species.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charles England, Mayor of the City of Grand Prairie, do hereby declare July 11, 2002 as

PURPLE MARTIN DAY IN GRAND PRAIRIE

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS, on this 2nd day of July 2002.


Mayor Charles England



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