PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, *nationally 2.7 million children are living with grandparents and other relatives in kinship care of which over 104,715 caregivers reside in Arizona, and*

WHEREAS, *relationships with family are crucial for children, it is our responsibility to promote and preserve kinship, sibling, and other familial connections for children in Arizona, and*

WHEREAS, *Arizonians join to honor famous kinship caregivers such as President George Washington, as well those grandparents and relatives residing in urban, rural and suburban households in every county of Arizona who "famously" step forward out of love and loyalty to care for relatives when the child's biological parents are no longer able to do so, and*

WHEREAS, *the public becomes increasingly aware of the challenges faced by children, grandparents and other relatives in kinship care to work in partnership with the education, legal, social services, mental health, justice and other systems to access services that can enable kinship youth to flourish in all facets of their life, and*

WHEREAS, *nationally Grand families / Kinship Caregivers save tax payers more than 6.5 billion dollars a year, and*

WHEREAS, *one in eleven of all children will live within a kinship family sometime during their childhood, kinship care provides the best opportunity to retain the child's cultural heritage and community ties.*

NOW, THEREFORE, *I, Toney D. King, Mayor of the City of Benson, Arizona, do hereby proclaim, September 2015 as*

"Grand family / Kinship Care Month"

TONEY D. KING, SR., Mayor

ATTEST:

VICKI L. VIVIAN, CMC, City Clerk