

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO.

Proclaiming June 12, 2015 Loving Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Mildred Jeter, an African American woman, and Richard Loving, a Caucasian man, fell in love and married in 1958. Because Virginia's law made interracial marriage a felony offense, the Lovings were arrested in 1958. Their sentence was suspended, provided they did not return to the Commonwealth of Virginia as a couple for 25 years. To avoid imprisonment, they moved to Washington, DC.
- b. While the Lovings were legally allowed to marry and live together in Washington, DC, they experienced discrimination in renting property, racist taunting, emotional hardship and difficulty supporting their children. Missing their family and desperate for justice, Mrs. Loving wrote to United States Attorney General Robert Kennedy seeking help. Her letter sparked a legal battle that rose to the Supreme Court of the United States.
- c. On June 12, 1967, the Supreme Court overturned laws that banned racially mixed marriages in the case of Loving vs. Virginia. Loving Day commemorates the anniversary of the landmark decision every June 12. With this ruling, the Court ended an era of laws enforced in forty-two states throughout American history and granted the same freedom to every interracial couple in every state.
- d. Loving Day is an opportunity to highlight the progress made towards equity and empowerment of people from all backgrounds seeking to marry. Celebrations are held across this country on June 12 in honor of this monumental court decision.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

June 12, 2015 as Loving Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

ADOPTED this 11th day of June, 2015.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioners Loretta Smith, District 2