



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, DES MOINES IS PROUD TO CLAIM BILL BRYSON, WORLD FAMOUS AUTHOR, AS ONE OF OUR FAVORITE AND OUTSTANDING SONS; AND,
- WHEREAS, BILL BRYSON WAS BORN IN DES MOINES, IOWA, IN 1951 AND WHILE GROWING UP ATTENDED GREENWOOD ELEMENTARY, CALLANAN JUNIOR HIGH, AND ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL; AND,
- WHEREAS, GROWING UP IN THE 50'S, BILL PASSED THE TIME WITH THE HELP OF THE "THUNDERBOLT KID". IN A TIME BEFORE "GAMEBOYS" AND CABLE TV, AN ACTIVE IMAGINATION WAS NEEDED TO ENHANCE A RELATIVELY SIMPLE AND QUIET LIFE IN DES MOINES; AND,
- WHEREAS, THE " THUNDERBOLT KID" LIVED A RICH FANTASY LIFE AS A SUPERHERO – LEAPING THE "TALL" BUILDINGS OF THIS METROPOLIS AND VANQUISHING THE EVER ABUNDANT EVILDOERS THAT LIVED NEARBY; AND,
- WHEREAS, BILL'S RAZOR-SHARP WIT GENTLY IMPALES OUR MIDWESTERN NEED FOR NOSTALGIA, NO MATTER HOW MUNDANE, AND MAKES US SEE OURSELVES IN A NEW LIGHT; AND,
- WHEREAS, AS A SUCCESSFUL WRITER, BILL HAS PUT DES MOINES, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, IN THE MINDS OF MILLIONS OF HIS FANS.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, T.M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST, 2006 AS:

BILL BRYSON -"THE THUNDERBOLT KID" DAY

IN THE CITY OF DES MOINES AND TENDER TO HIM THIS KEY TO THE CITY OF DES MOINES AS AN EXPRESSION OF OUR ESTEEM; AND FURTHERMORE, EXTEND TO BILL, OUR BEST WISHES FOR MANY YEARS OF CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA, TO BE AFFIXED THIS 21ST DAY OF OCTOBER, TWO THOUSAND SIX.

T.M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR
CITY OF DES MOINES

