



**A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF NEW ALBANY FOUNDERS DAY AND RECOGNIZING  
FOUNDERS DAY ORGANIZERS AND VOLUNTEERS**

**WHEREAS**, New Albany Founders Day was first organized in 1976 by the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society as part of the nation's Bicentennial celebration, and in tribute to William Yantis and Noble Landon who founded New Albany in 1837; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1994, Founders Day was separated out as its own entity and was led by Beckie Knore and Linda Honaker; additional committee members followed, namely, Jeff Steckman in 2005 and Stacy Honaker Adkins in 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, the first Founders Day Parade Grand Marshals were Congressman Sam Divine and Clark & Martha Ranney; and, in 2015, the parade was renamed the "Dr. Glyde A Marsh New Albany Founders Day Parade" to honor the late and long-serving New Albany Council Member and former grand marshal; and

**WHEREAS**, activities and programs at Founders Day over the years have included the popular Ethel Schleppe Memorial Art Show, the Miss New Albany Pageant, classic car shows, a 5K race, big concerts, a talent show, a chili cook-off, pancake breakfasts, karaoke, a tractor pull, a hot air balloon, fireworks, live auctions, t-shirt design contests, and a dunk tank; and

**WHEREAS**, Founders Day currently draws around 7,000 attendees, 50 vendors, and up to 60 parade entrants each year; and

**WHEREAS**, instead of picking one Grand Marshal, the Founders Day Committee is recognizing and inviting all of its past Grand Marshals to be a part of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Sloan T. Spalding, Mayor of the City of New Albany, Counties of Franklin and Licking, State of Ohio, on behalf of the council and residents of New Albany, thank Linda Honaker, Beckie Knore, Jeff Steckman, Stacy Adkins, and all of the dedicated volunteers over 50 years for making **New Albany Founders Day** a beloved tradition which brings the community together.

**WHEREBY**, I set my hand and seal this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "S. Spalding", is written over a horizontal line.

Sloan T. Spalding, Mayor