



Proclamation

*On a motion from
Councilor Steve Shaw and Councilor Stan Tzouvelekas*

*Members of Greenville County Council wish to recognize
The Melehes Family*

WHEREAS, In 1959, Michael and Tula Melehes opened a Greenville County institution, the Open Hearth restaurant. Jimmy and Paula Starr Melehes continued the incredible stretch for over 60 years in an industry where many fail within the first year; and

WHEREAS, Originating from Greenville County's deep Greek community, the Open Hearth was Greenville County's first "big city" restaurant, inspired by the upscale steak and seafood houses of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, "It's food and friends," says a regular patron who dropped in almost every night under the "Cheers 1959" sign. "It's a landmark, no doubt about it;" and

WHEREAS, The Open Hearth was more than simply fixtures and a business; the Melehes family created a special place night after night. There is no way to count the number of special moments Greenville County families cherished there. The Open Hearth meant celebration of milestones and memories; and

WHEREAS, On any given evening, the "who's who" of Greenville County would be there; no matter who you were, you always felt special and welcome; and

WHEREAS, The Open Hearth has employed and trained unforgettable servers, chefs, and support staff. Everyone who worked there touched lives; and

WHEREAS, The Open Hearth and Melehes Family were frequently praised and recognized by national radio hosts like Mike Gallagher, Joey Hudson, and Bob McLean; and

WHEREAS, The Melehes Family showed the true spirit of small business grit by weathering the government shutdowns and restrictions of 2020. Their creative use of mannequins at tables for social distancing made national news on the Today show and was featured in several culinary magazines; and

WHEREAS, The Melehes family and staff, day after day, week after week, year after year, and decade after decade, put in the dedication and long-hours that it takes to build and run not only a restaurant, but an institution.

NOW, THEREFORE, Greenville County Council, honors and recognizes the Melehes family and their wonderful staff for more than 60 years of service to the residents of Greenville County and proclaim SEPTEMBER 20, 2022, as

OPEN HEARTH DAY

in Greenville County.

Given this 20th day of September, 2022

Willis Meadows, Chairman
Greenville County Council

