



MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION: RAYMOND NEWMAN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

WHEREAS, Raymond Franklin Newman was born at home on September 6, 1919 to Austin C. and Tommie F. Newman in Powledge, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, he grew up exposed to agriculture; especially cotton farming from the field to the gin. Raymond's father owned large plots of land in Powledge used mainly for cotton farming. Raymond had a love for the soil and set his sights early on owning land and pursuing his dreams; and

WHEREAS, Raymond met Ellen Thomas of Columbus, Georgia in the late 1930's; they married on November 21, 1940. Ellen was a city girl, and the adjustment to the quaint community of Bleecker, Alabama was very challenging; and

WHEREAS, Raymond and Ellen had three boys; Ray, Mike and John. Bleecker was home until 1955 when Raymond moved the family to Opelika to take advantage of the Opelika School System; and

WHEREAS, in time, Raymond's father gave parcels of his property to his children and thus became the base for what is known as "the farm" today. What started out as an open field with an oak tree has now grown into a large, single block of well developed and manicured land known as "Circle N Farm, LLC".

WHEREAS, Raymond is a civic-minded person having helped with Christmas parades, coaching Little League baseball, and serving on many agricultural committees. He is a former Rotarian with over 50 years and a Paul Harris Fellow. Raymond loves life, loves his family, but he especially loves his farm. Years ago, he said his goal was to live to be a 100. He made it!

NOW THEREFORE, I, Gary Fuller, Mayor of the City of Opelika, Alabama do hereby recognize Raymond Newman on his 100th birthday and do hereby proclaim September 3, 2019 as

Raymond Newman Day

throughout the City and and urge all residents to do their part to increase safety and recall awareness in our community.

SIGNED on this the 3rd day of September 2019 – A Glorious Night to Remember!