



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

2012 MILDRED BAILEY DAY

WHEREAS, Mildred Rinker Bailey, now remembered as the “First Girl Singer” who performed with a big band in America, was an enrolled member of the Coeur d’Alene Tribe and raised on the family farm near De Smet, Idaho, on the Coeur d’Alene Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 12, Mildred and her family moved to Spokane, Washington, where she and her brother Al became lifelong friends with a local singing drummer they recruited named Harry (Bing) Crosby; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1920s, Mildred Bailey moved to Los Angeles where she helped Bing Crosby find work with a traveling jazz show that Crosby later credited with launching his career and in his 1953 autobiography, Bing Crosby recalled, “I was lucky in knowing the great jazz and blues singer Mildred Bailey so early in life”; and

WHEREAS, Mildred Bailey landed a spot with the Paul Whiteman Orchestra, the most famous big band in America, where she became the “First Girl Singer” to perform with a big band, a groundbreaking achievement that opened the door of opportunity for later jazz greats; and

WHEREAS, Mildred Bailey was voted by national magazines as the “Top Female Jazz Vocalist” multiple times and the U.S. Postal Service commemorated her historic contribution to jazz by issuing a 29-cent stamp with her picture on it in 1994, joining Billie Holiday and Bessie Smith in receiving that recognition;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. “Butch” Otter, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim April 30, 2012 to be

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in Idaho, and we recognize and honor Mildred Rinker Bailey as a jazz pioneer who blazed a trail that hundreds of other women have now traveled, and we will never forget her contributions to the American jazz musical idiom.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 30th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and twelve and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-sixth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty second.

C.L. “BUTCH” OTTER
GOVERNOR

BEN YURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE