

**PROCLAMATION  
HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH**

**WHEREAS,** homeownership has been a key feature of our way of life since America's earliest days; and

**WHEREAS,** important qualities of character develop with the ownership of a home, such as responsibility, self-reliance, long-term planning, thrift, individuality, and the sense of pride and security that come with owning a home are hallmarks of our character as a people; and

**WHEREAS,** it has been a longstanding national policy, predating President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the Homestead Act, to encourage Americans to own a home; and

**WHEREAS,** homeownership benefits individual families by helping them build economic security, fosters healthy, vibrant communities, provides material security and allows families to build wealth; and

**WHEREAS,** a home is the largest financial investment most American families will ever make, as it allows families to build financial security as the equity in the home increases and a home is a tangible asset that provides a family with borrowing power to finance important needs, such as educating children; and

**WHEREAS,** homeowners work to keep up the value of their investment, which translates into a greater concern for neighborhoods and surrounding communities and a family that owns its home is more likely to upgrade their property, to take pride in their neighborhood and become more interested in the well-being of their community; and

**WHEREAS,** by increasing the ranks of homeowners, communities not only enjoy increased stability but also benefit from a new spirit of revitalization; and

**WHEREAS,** the federal government is working to ensure that homeownership opportunities are equally available to all Americans through new initiatives that make down payment capital available to low-income homebuyers, and through vigorous enforcement of fair housing laws and all anti-discrimination statutes;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, William J. Mueller, President of the Village of Lombard, do hereby proclaim June 2004 as **Homeownership Month** and call upon the residents to join me in recognizing the importance of realizing the dream of homeownership.

