

**Whereas,** Rosemary “Rosie” Casals, nicknamed Rosebud by her fans and General by her peers, was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1996, and then in 2021, was again inducted as a member of the history-making Original Nine, the first-ever group to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame; and

**Whereas,** known for her grit, power, and rebellious nature, Rosie was determined to create a better future for women in the sport of tennis and in 1970 with eight other women, signed a \$1.00 contract for a ten-week tour launching the first Women’s Professional Virginia Slims Tour and, Rosie won that first tournament; and

**Whereas,** Rosie is recognized and celebrated for her achievements in doubles play with 112 professional doubles titles, and for having forged a partnership with Billie Jean King that slanted doubles competition in their direction for nine years, notably as five-time Wimbledon Doubles Champions, and as the only doubles team in history to win U.S. titles on all three surfaces; and

**Whereas,** Rosie’s tenacity and leadership was again demonstrated in 1973 as one of the founders of the Women’s Tennis Association, continuing the fight for women to receive equal prize money and respect in the sport of tennis; and

**Whereas,** as a color commentator with Howard Cosell in the 1973 Battle of the Sexes between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs, Rosie contributed respectful and accurate commentary during the most viewed match in history in the United States and across the world; and

**Whereas,** Rosie, the daughter of parents who immigrated to the United States from El Salvador, overcame economic and life circumstances, using them to fuel her tennis game and achievements, and still today, with boundless energy and belief, she continues to create local and global impact establishing the Latin American Tennis Foundation and Love of Tennis Foundation, supporting underserved Coachella Valley youth; and


**Whereas,** Rosie Casals, as a Palm Desert resident and distinguished figure in the tennis world, is appreciated and celebrated always for her contributions and accomplishments.


**Now, Therefore, I,** Jan C. Harnik, Mayor of the City of Palm Desert, California, along with the entire City Council, do hereby proclaim Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> as


## Rosemary “Rosie” Casals Day

In the City of Palm Desert and urge all residents to join me in extending our congratulations and appreciation for her dedicated service to our community.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Palm Desert, California, to be affixed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022

  
MAYOR  
JAN C. HARNIK

  
COUNCILMEMBER  
ABBY JONATHAN

  
COUNCILMEMBER  
GINA NESTANDE

  
COUNCILMEMBER  
KATHLEEN KELLY

  
COUNCILMEMBER  
KARINA QUINTANILLA



**[This page has intentionally been left blank.]**