

WHEREAS, On January 12, 1962, United States Army pilots lifted more than 1,000 South Vietnamese service members over jungle and underbrush to capture a National Liberation Front stronghold near Saigon; and

WHEREAS, Operation Chopper marked America's first combat mission against the Viet Cong, and the beginning of one of our longest and most challenging wars; and

WHEREAS, Fifty years after that fateful mission, we honor the more than 3 million Americans who served, we pay tribute to those we have laid to rest, and we reaffirm our dedication to showing a generation of veterans the respect and support of a grateful Nation; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam War is a story of service members of different backgrounds, colors, and creeds who came together to complete a daunting mission. More than 58,000 laid down their lives in service to our Nation; and

WHEREAS, Half a century after those helicopters swept off the ground and into the annals of history, we pay tribute to the fallen, the missing, the wounded, the millions who served, and the millions more who awaited their return. Our Nation stands stronger for their service, and on Vietnam Veterans Day, we honor their proud legacy with our deepest gratitude.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 30, 2016, as:

“Vietnam Veterans Day”

and urge all citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs and ceremonies that commemorate the anniversary of the Vietnam War.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, to be affixed this 21st day of March, 2016.

MAYOR / COMMISSIONER