

WHEREAS, A natural inlet opposite what is now St. Lucie Village was, for centuries, the most dependable Atlantic Ocean inlet for access to the Indian River, providing safe harbor and access to recreational and commercial fishing. The Inlet facilitated national and international trade that established diversity, characteristic of all ports, and created a thriving local boat building industry until a 1910 hurricane closed what was known as the Indian River Inlet; and

WHEREAS, in 1918, local civic leaders organized the Fort Pierce Inlet Commission, and in 1919, the Fort Pierce Finance and Construction Company issued the first of four bonds, which were approved by the voters of St. Lucie County, demonstrating their willingness to tax themselves for the prosperity of the community, and allowing the Commission to purchase property adjacent to Taylor Creek and property at Tucker Cove for construction of the inlet; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 1920, the cut through Hutchinson Island had been completed to within 50 feet of the Atlantic Ocean, then halted to allow jetties to be constructed; and

WHEREAS, on April 19, 1921, the dredge *Tuscanwilla* began to remove the 50-feet of sand but a high tide finished the job on May 8 and the waters of river and sea were joined, once again delivering Fort Pierce from being landlocked. On May 12, a record crowd gathered in Fort Pierce to celebrate this accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, Fort Pierce wishes to honor the generation that suffered World War I and the Spanish Influenza, planned, executed and paid for the Fort Pierce Inlet and, as a result, re-started commercial and sports fishing, making possible, under the leadership of Edwin Binney, the enhancement of the Port of Fort Pierce and helping to increase the success of the citrus industry by lower shipping rates; additionally, the U.S. Navy chose Fort Pierce as the location for the Amphibious Training Base on Hutchinson Island in World War II because of the Inlet; and

WHEREAS, our man-made Fort Pierce Inlet is considered the safest inlet between New Smyrna and West Palm Beach and therefore attracts boaters from Florida and beyond year-round; and

WHEREAS, because of the inlet, boat builders, marine services, marinas and yacht clubs, seaside eateries, yacht sales, and other marine related enterprises benefit the local economy, and has been joined recently by Derecktor Fort Pierce, bringing the mega yacht repair and refit industry, using the world's largest mobile boat hoist, to our Fort Pierce port; all made possible by the Inlet.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida do hereby proclaim **May 8 through May 28** as:

Fort Pierce Inlet 100th Anniversary Celebration Days

in Fort Pierce and encourage all citizens to celebrate our efforts to protect our waterways, especially the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian River Lagoon, and the Fort Pierce Inlet that connects them, because of the Inlet's overarching value to our history, economy and quality of life.

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 3rd day of May 2021.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER