

WHEREAS, The Vietnam war was fought from 1959-1975, involving the North Vietnamese and the National Liberation Front in conflict with the United States forces and the South Vietnamese army; the United States became involved in Vietnam because American policy makers believed that if the entire country fell under a Communist government, Communism would spread throughout Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, in 1965 U.S. combat troops arrived in Vietnam, and by 1969 a peak of approximately 543,000 troops would be reached; on January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed declaring the release of all American prisoners of war from North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from South Vietnam. On March 29, 1973, the last U.S. forces left Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, more than 58,000 American service members made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in order to preserve our freedoms; 300,000 were wounded, and 1720 are still listed as missing in action; and since their return from service, Vietnam Veterans have greatly contributed to our state and nation by offering skills, education, leadership, maturity and dedication learned in military service; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans of the Vietnam War deserve our appreciation and respect for the time, effort and dedication that they have given in the service of their country, which was not afforded them on their return. Though we can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to those heroic men and women who served, this presents the opportunity for the people of Fort Pierce to honor and thank our Vietnam Veterans for their service to our country.

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

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

in the City of Fort Pierce and encourage our citizens to join with their communities in participation in Vietnam Veterans Day.

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 2022.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER