

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZING
UNITED STATES NAVY PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS RICHARD KITCHEN FOR HIS
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES AND SEMINOLE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the brave men and women of our Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force demonstrate a resolute spirit and unmatched selflessness, reminding us there are few things more American than giving of ourselves to make a difference in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, throughout our country's history, generations of service members have answered the call to leave their families, their jobs, and put their futures and even their lives on the line to valiantly defend our nation; and

WHEREAS, for many service members, the sacrifice has ended in permanent injury or death, yet their spirit remains in the continued preservation of our freedoms and the promise of liberty; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 30,000 living veterans in Seminole County who served our Nation in times of peace and war. Through their service, they kept America strong; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Richard Kitchen served in the United States Navy from 1968 - 1989 as an Electronic Technician, earning both Submarine and Surface Warfare qualifications. Throughout his career, he was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Navy Unit Citation, and the Meritorious Unit Citation. Petty Officer Kitchen spent most of his service conducting testing and evaluation for the Trident D5 Ballistic Missile program, a crucial component of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Richard Kitchen relocated to Orlando in 1989, where he worked for Associated TV Repair. His final employment before retirement was with AMC Theatres, where he served as a Facilities Manager; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Richard Kitchen has continued his lifelong commitment to service well beyond his military career and for many years he has volunteered his time in partnership with local restaurants to organize and distribute toys to more than fifty children annually, ensuring that local families feel supported, valued, and remembered. For the past 10 years, he has embraced the role of Mall Santa at the Altamonte Mall and has also appeared as Santa throughout the Southeast. In addition, he enjoys participating in 5K runs, completing roughly 25 races each year.

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Richard Kitchen has brought great credit and distinction upon himself, the United States of America, the United States Navy, and Seminole County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that we, the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County, Florida, express our gratitude, admiration, and respect for Petty Officer Richard Kitchen, for his outstanding service to the United States Navy and residents of Seminole County.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this Proclamation is presented to Petty Officer Richard Kitchen, along with our sincere congratulations and recognition as Seminole County's

“Veteran of the Month”

ADOPTED this 9th day of December 2025.



Andria Herr, Chairman
Seminole County Board of County Commissioners