

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZING
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AIR FORCE TECHNICAL SERGEANT THOMAS STERLING
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, Technical Sergeant Thomas Sterling enlisted in the United States Air Force on January 5, 1978 as an Aircraft Fuels Technician, and served Honorably for over 16 years during Desert Shield and Desert Storm as a Load Master Inspector, and the Stealth Fighter program, until he retired on January 31, 1994; and

WHEREAS, Technical Sergeant Thomas Sterling received the Air Force Commendation Medal with 2 Devices, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Training Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with 3D Device, Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 4 Devices, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 4 Devices; and

WHEREAS, Technical Sergeant Thomas Sterling, upon retirement from the Air Force, moved to Chuluota, and has lived there with his wife, Peggy, for the past 46 years; and

WHEREAS, Technical Sergeant Thomas Sterling initially worked as a Machinist building lasers and flight simulators for the University of Central Florida and the military. He then became a Mechanics Instructor Master Technician for Oviedo High School training students in auto mechanics for the past 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Technical Sergeant Thomas Sterling currently teaches after school programs, automotive programs, and a 2 week summer school for special needs children. He has helped fund senior high school students' automotive projects resulting in scholarships and awards from the Central Florida Auto Dealers Association. He has been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Chuluota for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Technical Sergeant Thomas Sterling has brought great credit and distinction upon himself, the United States of America, the United States Air Force, 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 Technical Sergeant Thomas Sterling, for his outstanding service to the United States Air Force and residents of Seminole County.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this Proclamation is presented to Technical Sergeant Thomas Sterling, along with our sincere congratulations and recognition as Seminole County's

“Veteran of the Month”

ADOPTED this 24th day of September 2024.



Jay Zembower, Chairman
Seminole County Board of County Commissioners