

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE
SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AFFIRMING MAY 29, 2023 AS
MEMORIAL DAY
IN SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, on Memorial Day, we pay solemn tribute to those brave Americans who served under the stars and stripes and laid down their lives to defend our freedom; and

WHEREAS, for more than a century, this holiday was known as Decoration Day and originally honored those lost while fighting in the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, following America's entry into World War I, Memorial Day evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars, including World War II, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, in 1915, after spotting a cluster of poppies, a brigade surgeon was inspired to write the poem *In Flanders Field*, giving a voice to soldiers who had died in battle and lay buried beneath poppy-covered grounds; the poem initiated a movement to make the poppy a symbol of tribute to all who have died in war and remains an emblem of remembrance to this day; and

WHEREAS, Congress, in a joint resolution approved May 11, 1950, provided that Memorial Day shall be set aside as a day of prayer for permanent peace and requested President Truman to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe each Memorial Day in that manner; and

WHEREAS, Monday, May 29th will mark the 153rd anniversary of Memorial Day; and

WHEREAS, more than 1.2 million American soldiers have died in conflicts, and more than 8,000 of these soldiers were from Florida; and

WHEREAS, today, over 1.3 million Americans serve in active military duty, 107,000 of whom are from Florida, while nearly 1 million Americans serve in the Reserves and National Guard; and

WHEREAS, on Memorial Day, and every day, the citizens of Seminole County must remember the servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives to ensure our own.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners does hereby recognize May 29, 2023, as

MEMORIAL DAY

AND BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board of County Commissioners requests that at 3:00 PM on Memorial Day, Seminole County residents voluntarily observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing to honor our military heroes and their valor.

ADOPTED this 23th day of May 2023



**Amy Lockhart, Chairman
Seminole County Board of County Commissioners**