

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZING
UNITED STATES NAVY PETTY OFFICER RICHARD WATTERS 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 Watters enlisted in the Navy in March 1969 and served until January 1973; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Richard Watters served onboard the USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CLG-5) with a combat deployment to the waters off Vietnam. Following that deployment, he served at the Antarctica Support Activity, the site of the South Pole. He earned numerous Medals including the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Meritorious Unit Citation with Gallantry Cross, and the Antarctica Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Richard Watters moved to Oviedo in 1997 where he enjoyed a long career in telecommunications including the establishment of the first call center to the internet. Since his retirement in 2009, he has been actively involved in the community volunteering with Birds of Prey, the Special Olympics, and Habitat for Humanity; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Richard Watters 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 Watters, 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 Watters, along with our sincere congratulations and recognition as Seminole County's

“Veteran of the Month”

ADOPTED this 25th day of July 2023.



Amy Lockhart, Chairman
Seminole County, Board of County Commissioners