

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZING
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE SERGEANT DONALD L. SMITH 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, Sergeant Donald L. Smith enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1976 and served honorably until he was discharged in 1980. His military assignments included working on F111A and F4C aircraft at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada for the 474th Fighter Wing and 429th Fighter Squadron. He also was assigned solo temporary duty at the 12th Tactical Air Command in MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Donald L. Smith worked for Grumman Aerospace in New York for 12 years after discharge, working on the same F111's that he maintained at Nellis Air Force Base. He retrofitted the aircraft to EF111A and worked on the F14 and A6. He was also a volunteer firefighter for Eastport Fire Department in New York for 15 years and rose to the rank of Captain and in 1987 was selected as Fireman of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Donald L. Smith then drove tractor trailers for 30 years covering 48 states. Hired by Commercial Driver Training as an instructor in West Babylon, New York, he taught veterans and civilians. Sergeant Donald L. Smith took second place in the Arizona Trucking Association Rodeo in 2010. Over the last 30 years, he had a three million miles safe driving record; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Donald L. Smith moved to Seminole County in 2021 upon retiring from tractor trailer driving. He became a member of the American Legion Post 53 in Sanford, Florida and accepted the position as the First Vice Commander of the Post and then was elected as the Post Commander in June 2022. His efforts have been instrumental in relocating the Post and revitalizing community efforts through the American Legion Project Vet Relief; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Donald L. Smith 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 Sergeant Donald L. Smith, 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 Sergeant Donald L. Smith, along with our sincere congratulations and recognition as Seminole County's

“Veteran of the Month”

ADOPTED this 27th day of February 2024.



Jay Zembower, Chairman
Seminole County Board of County Commissioners