

## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, the freedoms and liberties we are blessed to enjoy are a direct result of the courage, devotion and sacrifice of the members of our Armed Forces; and
- WHEREAS, fifty years ago, more than 3 million serviceman and servicewomen left their families to serve bravely in Vietnam, a world away from everything they knew and everyone they loved; and
- WHEREAS, From Ia Drange to Khe Sah, from Hue to Saigon, and countless villages in between, they endured jungles and rice paddies, heat and monsoon, fighting heroically to protect their ideals we hold dear as Americans; and
- WHEREAS, while they came from different backgrounds, colors and creeds, they worked to complete a daunting mission. A mission that left more than 58,000 dead and returning thousands home bearing shrapnel and scars, burdened by the wounds of post-traumatic stress, of Agent Orange and memories that would never fade; and
- WHEREAS, through long and controversial in nature, this war in many ways defined a generation of Americans. In the half century since the beginning of the conflict, our nation has grappled with the sensitive effects of this struggle which accompanies all wars. Yet we remain thankful for those who fought in this conflict and the legacy of service that they built; and
- WHEREAS, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam War will continue through November 11, 2025. Throughout this commemoration, let us strive to live up to their example by showing our Vietnam veterans, their families and all of the men and women who have served our country, the fullest respect and support of a grateful city. The City with the help of our citizens established a Veterans Memorial to recognize all veterans and specifically this year, appreciate the sacrifices that our Vietnam veterans made in defending our freedom and believe it is important that we acknowledge them for their courage and sacrifice.

NOW THEREFORE, be it proclaimed that the City Council of Marco Island hereby honors our Vietnam Veterans on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War and on behalf of a grateful community thanks them for their selfless service and sacrifice.

DONE AND ORDERED THIS 11<sup>th</sup> Day of November 2016.

CITY OF MARCO ISLAND CITY COUNCIL

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Robert C. Brown, Chairman