

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Lionfish are a nonnative species that were first noted in Florida waters in the mid-80s and have since spread up the Atlantic coast and across the Gulf of Mexico (SunSentinel, October 16, 2016); and

WHEREAS, Lionfish are an invasive species that have a negative impact on native species and habitat, and the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission encourages divers, anglers and commercial harvesters to remove lionfish in Florida waters to limit negative impacts to native marine life and ecosystems (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, November 16, 2016); and

WHEREAS, the Lionfish Challenge ran from May 16 to September 30, 2016, and 16,609 lionfish were removed from Florida waters. Ormond Beach resident David Garrett is credited with catching 3,324 lionfish over a four and one-half month period (SunSentinel, October 16, 2016); and

WHEREAS, David Garrett, a retired Army Major, commercial fisherman, and Professional Association of Diving Instructors scuba instructor, became the lionfish's greatest nightmare this past summer earning the title of "*Lionfish King*";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Partington, Mayor of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, do hereby proclaim December 6, 2016, as a day to recognize

DAVID GARRETT

in the City of Ormond Beach and urge all residents to join with me in paying tribute to David Garrett for his efforts in the Lionfish Challenge removing over 3,000 invasive lionfish from Florida waters.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 6th day of December in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Sixteen.





BILL PARTINGTON
Mayor