

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, September is Childhood Cancer Awareness month which provides an opportunity to honor and remember the children affected by cancer by renewing our commitment to fighting childhood cancer, raising awareness, and supporting those children and their families afflicted by cancer; and

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States and 46 children per day or 16,376 children are diagnosed with cancer annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, childhood cancer spares no ethnic group, socioeconomic class, or geographic region, and it is essential to raise awareness and funding for pediatric cancer research; and

WHEREAS, Mikaila Philomena Stafford, lovingly referred to as “Roo” by her family, was one of eight children, and a healthy three-year-old who loved the color purple, flamingos, unicorns, mermaids and her family. In March of 2019, Roo became seriously ill; after numerous doctor visits and tests, free floating cancerous cells were found in her central nervous system and around her brain. She was additionally diagnosed with a rare complication from the cancer, and passed away in May. Roo’s family feels her loss daily, and are working to raise awareness and increase funding for pediatric cancer in honor of their daughter; and

WHEREAS, the gold ribbon was chosen to represent childhood cancer in 1997. The Gold Ribbon Campaign is for the heroes in our midst: the children and adolescents who bravely and courageously fight cancer; the survivors who beat cancer; the families who fearlessly live with the realities of cancer and with the loss of a precious child; and the volunteers, staff, and medical practitioners who passionately serve and dedicate their time to the childhood cancer community; and

WHEREAS, our community comes together to remember all those whose lives were lost to childhood cancer and to support every child and family whose lives have been forever altered by childhood cancer, as well as the dedicated professionals, organizations, individuals, and communities who support and care for them.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Partington, Mayor of the City of Ormond Beach, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2019 as

GOLD RIBBON MONTH

for childhood cancer awareness in the City of Ormond Beach in honor of Mikaila Philomena Stafford and others like her.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 11th day of September in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Nineteen.



BILL PARTINGTON
Mayor