

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Matthew Monroe is a 15-year-old resident of Ormond Beach and student at Spruce Creek High School. He is articulate, smart, and is driven by a desire to help people. Since his sixth birthday, Matthew has wished for shoes each year – but not for himself – Matthew collects the shoes in order for them to be distributed to people in need around the world; and

WHEREAS, in Atlanta as a small child, Matthew was inspired by a friend who collected toys for the Ronald McDonald House on his birthday. At just five years old, Matthew began marking his birthday each year with a charitable initiative. For his fifth birthday party, his party guests were asked to bring dog or cat food that would be donated to local pet owners. Later that year, his Atlanta Sunday school class had a shoe drive, which gave him the idea to start collecting shoes. Now he has been collecting new and gently-worn shoes for Soles4Souls each year since his sixth birthday; and

WHEREAS, Matthew is holding his 10th anniversary shoe drive this year. Over the years, he has collected thousands of shoes. Matthew's largest ever collection was 1,120 pairs of shoes in 2013 for his ninth birthday. He is hoping to top that number this year by meeting his goal of 1,200 donated shoes. Matthew receives community support for the drive each year; he has had boxes of shoes donated by local businesses and received a large collection from the Seabreeze High School color guard this year; and

WHEREAS, Matthew's giving nature has encouraged and expanded his drive beyond his birthday parties. This year, donations can be given to the Monroe family or dropped at nine designated locations in Volusia County. Driven by a desire to pay it forward, Matthew hopes to balance out some of the negativity in the world by making a difference for those less fortunate. Matthew's philanthropic spirit and positive attitude are an inspiration.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Partington, Mayor of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, do hereby proclaim December 4, 2019, as a day to recognize

MATTHEW MONROE

in the City of Ormond Beach and urge all residents to join with me on this day as we recognize Matthew's decade of shoe donations and celebrate his passion for helping those in need.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 4th day of December in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Nineteen.



BILL PARTINGTON
Mayor