

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Jay Van Rhee led a life that included faith, dedication, and service. Jay was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. He graduated from St. Ambrose High School and went on to attend the University of Detroit and Wayne State University. Jay served his country during the Korean War in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Jay grew to love umpiring sandlot baseball growing up, and decided that professional umpiring was where he would focus his time and energy. Jay made his way to Florida to attend school, now known as the Wendelstedt School for Umpires, in Daytona Beach. He studied for three years and received his first minor league assignment in the Georgia-Florida league during that time. Jay stayed in professional ball for five years, often traveling away from home; and

WHEREAS, during his time at umpire school Jay met the love of his life, Barbara Cole, and married her. As Jay's family started expanding, he decided to spend more time at home and found a job as an Insurance Investigator. This job, and working with Barbara on their transportation service, allowed Jay to be present for his family, especially his children. Jay was a father to four, grandfather to nine and great-grandfather to four; and

WHEREAS, Jay was actively involved in his community, from running the concession stand at Little League fields on Nova Road for 10 years to providing transportation to students of St. Brendan's School for 25 years. After retiring from the insurance business, Jay worked at Ormond Beach Elementary part-time for five years as a lunch room host. The children loved him and made Jay "King for a Day". Jay's love of youth and sports was evident in his involvement as a sports official for over 60 years. He coached Little League Baseball in Ormond Beach and basketball at St. Brendan's School for many years. Jay was inducted into the Ormond Beach Softball Hall of Fame and the Central Florida Officials Association Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Jay served as a member of the Civitan Club of Ormond Beach and on numerous boards in the community. He volunteered his time with the former Ormond Memorial Hospital (AdventHealth), Advent Hospice, and Meals on Wheels for decades. Jay served in Ormond Beach government as a City Commissioner from 1974 to 1975 and 1992 to 1993, and was a Mayoral candidate; and

WHEREAS, Jay and Barbara were founding members of the Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Ormond Beach. Jay worked tirelessly on whatever needed to be accomplished and in any position that required a willing individual. When the new church opened in 1969, Jay had the idea to hold a fundraiser and make it an Oktoberfest. His idea was so successful that the church still holds Oktoberfest on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, May 27, 2021, Jay Van Rhee passed away. This dynamic and humble man lived his calling every day, with his wife, touching lives and influencing those around him. His impressive legacy of service in sports, community, faith organizations and at Prince of Peach Catholic Church will live on for years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Partington, Mayor of the City of Ormond Beach, do hereby proclaim Saturday, June 5, 2021, as a day to honor and celebrate the life of

JAY VAN RHEE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 5th June in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-One.



BILL PARTINGTON
Mayor