

# 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, with 43 children per day, or 15,780 children aged 0 through 19, being diagnosed with cancer annually in the United States. 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**, 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**, Mikaila Philomena Stafford, lovingly referred to as “Roo” by her family, was one of eight children, and a healthy three-year-old who passed from this disease in May of 2019. Roo’s family still feels her loss daily, and continue their work to raise awareness and increase funding for pediatric cancer in honor of their daughter; and

**WHEREAS**, Roo’s family has since moved back to North Carolina, where she is buried, but loved the quality of life that Ormond Beach provided while living here. Roo and her family would go for long walks on the beach, collecting seashells as they walked. Numerous meals were eaten at their favorite restaurant, Hull’s Seafood, and delicious treats would be discovered at Donnie’s Donuts. The family attended Prince of Peace Catholic Church and enjoyed spending time with other parishioners and the wonderful neighbors in their area; 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 2021 as

## GOLD RIBBON MONTH

for childhood cancer awareness in the City of Ormond Beach in honor of Mikaila “Roo” Philomena Stafford and the impact her life made on those around her and in our community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-One.

  
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**BILL PARTINGTON**  
Mayor