

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Bernard “Bernie” Murphy led a life that included service, wisdom, optimism, humor and a contagious smile. Bernie was born and raised in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Bernie and his family moved to Florida in the late 1970’s to work for the cities of Gainesville and Sanibel. He later joined the City of Ormond Beach in 1986, and finally ended his career with positions in Ponce Inlet and Flagler Beach in the early to mid-2000’s; and

**WHEREAS**, after high school, Bernie attended the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, receiving his Bachelors of Arts in Political Science in 1962. He then moved on, receiving his Master of Public Administration in 1966 from the University of Rhode Island; and

**WHEREAS**, Bernie began his life-long career as a public servant in 1966, when he accepted the position of Assistant City Manager in Auburn, Maine. Two years later, he became the youngest person to serve as the City Manager for that city. His service in city management included additional locations along the eastern seaboard in Florida, Acton, Massachusetts and Staunton, Virginia. In 1990, Bernie decided to change direction with his career, resigning from the City of Ormond Beach to accept a position working for Brown & Brown Insurance. Once Bernie retired from city management in 2010, he served as an emergency-preparedness consultant to the International City Managers Association, even traveling outside the U.S. under the sponsorship of the United States Agency for International Development; and

**WHEREAS**, Bernie enjoyed the quality of life that Ormond Beach provides for close to 20 years, while serving the residents of multiple cities in Volusia County. Like breathing, humor was essential to Bernie, and he would frequently tell stories in order to make people laugh. Those who knew him described Bernie as warm and friendly, with a gift for encouragement when things were tough. Bernie was truly one-of-a-kind and always lit up any room he entered; and

**WHEREAS**, there were numerous momentous projects during the time that Bernie was at the helm of Ormond Beach. He joined Daytona Beach and Port Orange with Ormond Beach, creating the Halifax Regional Water Supply Authority at a time when underground water contamination was a public concern. Bernie split the police and fire departments into two separate entities, where they had been under one Department of Public Safety. A new city hall and a transition from the old Hotel Ormond to Ormond Heritage condominiums on beachside were also under Bernie’s purview. The current park system, which was the brainchild of the city’s first City Manager, was being brought to fruition under Bernie’s guidance. Bernie had a hand in many of the experiences that the city’s residents enjoy to this day; and

**WHEREAS**, in July, 2021, Bernie passed away after a courageous fight with illness. This magnetic man’s spirit for service lives on and inspires those who knew him. Even after his death, Bernie’s legacy will continue to influence others for years to come.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Partington, Mayor of the City of Ormond Beach, do hereby proclaim Saturday, October 23, 2021, as a day to honor and celebrate the life of

## **BERNARD “BERNIE” MURPHY, JR.**

in the City of Ormond Beach and encourage all residents to join me in remembering Bernie Murphy’s love of life.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-One.

  
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**BILL PARTINGTON**  
Mayor