



PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Key West has been home to some of the most important poets of the past century, including Robert Frost, Elizabeth Bishop, and Richard Wilbur. American literature has been enriched by poetic descriptions of Key West's history, environment, and culture; and

Whereas, the Key West Poet Laureate is the official poet of Key West; and

Whereas, Jack Hackett aka "Tortuga Jack" is a poet, sailor, storyteller and naturalist, who was born and raised in Chicago and has lived in Key West for more than half his life; and

Whereas, he is a fervent advocate for poetry. He shares the joy and significance of poems with residents and visitors to Key West by organizing programs including the Poems for Public Project, the Song and Story Festival, and Poem A Day programs at the Green Parrot and Blue Heaven. He has won the Hemingway Storytelling contest more than once, and hosted it twice; and

Whereas, as a performance poet, he has performed locally, nationally, and internationally, and he is published by SeaStory Press in the anthology "Key West I Love You."

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of Key West, does hereby recognize

"TORTUGA" JACK HACKETT KEY WEST POET LAUREATE 2022

**WITNESS our hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida,
This third day of May, 2022**

Mayor Teri Johnston

Vice Mayor Samuel Kaufman

Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover

Commissioner Clayton Lopez

Commissioner Gregory Davila

Commissioner Billy Wardlow

Commissioner Jimmy Weekley