



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 2009, Commissioner William G. "Bill" Verge was part of the team credited with sinking the USNS Hoyt S. Vandenberg. At the time he declined to run for a second term as a City Commissioner, informing a reporter at the Key West Citizen "I'm coming up 73, and I don't know what my energy level will be in the next four years;" and

WHEREAS, that same year, Commissioner Verge mustered an army of supporters and volunteers, and coordinated the return of the US Coast Guard Cutter Ingham to Key West, to serve as a museum, monument, and community gathering place; and

WHEREAS, Bill Verge has tirelessly cared for the USCGC Ingham since its arrival, educating visitors, working with volunteers, hosting events, and conducting fundraising efforts to maintain the Ingham for posterity; and

WHEREAS, on his birthday, Bill Verge will be the host and guest of honor of "Bill's Big Boat Bingo Birthday Bash," a fundraiser to pay for a necessary dry-dock of the Ingham, to preserve and maintain the vessel; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission urges residents and visitors alike to celebrate the 82nd birthday of veteran, preservationist, activist and advocate Bill Verge.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 23rd of 2018 as

BILL VERGE DAY

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States". I would like to urge all citizens, residents and visitors of our Southernmost City to participate fittingly in the observation, on May 23rd, 2018.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 15th day of May, 2018.

Clayton Lopez, Vice Mayor

Craig Cates, Mayor