



COMMENDATION

Tom Callahan permanently relocated to Key West from Maryland in 2006 upon his retirement from a career in financial planning. It was in this year that he co-founded the Star of the Sea Outreach Mission with St. Mary's Church. The Star of the Sea Foundation (SOS) was incorporated as a 501©(3) in 2009.

For 15 years, Tom was a member of the SOS board and he dedicated 12 years in leadership roles as the Executive Director or CEO. Under his leadership the organization's expansion was fueled by contributions from Monroe County as well as from private foundations and federal funds. Walmart Foundation's donation of more than a quarter-million dollars funded 6 refrigerated vehicles, while the U.S. Department of Agriculture's grants of a half a million dollars were instrumental in building the state-of-the-art community kitchen located at Key West City Hall and a 13,000 cubic foot warehouse on Rockland Key.

Today, the SOS Callahan Community Kitchen, represents Tom's vision and commitment to the community by producing thousands of nutritious meals each week for children's food programs and senior meal services.


Over the years, Tom's volunteer services to the community leading SOS, have been recognized with the Key West Chamber of Commerce's "Piece of the Rock" award and the American Red Cross "Florence Spottswood Humanitarian of the Year" award. Most recently Tom was awarded the "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal" by the Pope for his exceptional, exemplary service and personal commitment to the community through his work at the SOS Foundation.

In recognition of this honor I, TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR of the City of Key West, along with the entire Key West City Commission, do hereby present this Commendation to

Tom Callahan

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 8th day of February 2024.




Teri Johnston, Mayor