



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Rotary Club of Key West was chartered on April 1, 1916, founded by Jefferson B. Browne, becoming the first Rotary Club in District 6990 and the third in the State of Florida, guided by the enduring principle of “*Service Above Self*”; and

WHEREAS, For 110 years, the Rotary Club of Key West has faithfully served the community while upholding the Rotary Four-Way Test—*Is it the Truth? Is it Fair to all concerned? Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships? Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?*—as a standard for ethical leadership and civic responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding, the Rotary Club of Key West has played a pivotal role in shaping the civic, cultural, and humanitarian fabric of the City of Key West through leadership in establishing the Key West Chapter of the American Red Cross, supporting the Chamber of Commerce, advocating for the creation of Everglades National Park, assisting in the development of the Overseas Highway, and providing labor and leadership in the creation of Bayview Park; and

WHEREAS, The Rotary Club of Key West has consistently championed environmental stewardship, historic preservation, youth development, and public service, including early advocacy for wildlife protection such as the Key Deer, sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 52, the establishment of Interact Clubs, support of Girls State and youth athletic programs, and recognition of civic excellence through annual Citizenship Awards; and

WHEREAS, For nearly five decades, the Rotary Club of Key West has proudly sponsored the City’s annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration, creating a lasting tradition enjoyed by residents and visitors alike since 1976; and

WHEREAS, The Rotary Club of Key West has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to education and health by administering scholarship programs—including the current \$25,000 Paul J. Sher Scholarship—establishing and sustaining a dental access program serving thousands of local children, and supporting nutritional, medical, and clean water initiatives both locally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, The Rotary Club of Key West has extended its service beyond local borders through long-standing international humanitarian projects, most notably its decades-long partnership with Hôpital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti, global immunization efforts to eradicate polio, and international health initiatives in Peru, Venezuela, India, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Through times of prosperity and challenges, including wars, natural disasters, economic hardship, and global pandemics the Rotary Club of Key West has remained steadfast in its mission, providing disaster relief, food distribution, community grants, and hands-on service to meet the evolving needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, The Rotary Club of Key West has been enriched by generations of dedicated Rotarians, including more than 100 past presidents, multiple district governors and assistant governors, Legends of Rotary and distinguished Hall of Fame members whose leadership and generosity have left an enduring legacy of service to the City of Key West; and

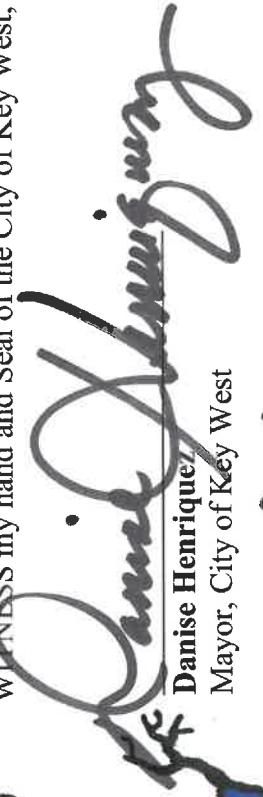
WHEREAS, In 2026, the Rotary Club of Key West proudly celebrates **110 years of continuous service**, marking more than a century of leadership, fellowship, and commitment to making Key West—and the world—a better place.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Danise Henriquez, Mayor of the City of Key West, Florida, along with the entire city commission, do hereby recognize and commend the Rotary Club of Key West for its 110 years of extraordinary service, and do hereby proclaim
APRIL 1, 2026 AS

“ROTARY CLUB OF KEY WEST – 110TH ANNIVERSARY DAY”

in the “Southernmost City of the Continental United States” and encourage all citizens to join in celebrating this remarkable milestone and the continued impact of Rotary service in our community and throughout the world.

WITNESS my hand and Seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 1st day of April 2026.


Danise Henriquez
Mayor, City of Key West

