



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the United General Assembly, by its resolution A/RES/62/122, adopted on December 17, 2007, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the legal Abolition of the so-called “slave trade” by the governments of Great Britain and the United States, officially declared March 25 to be the International Day for the Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade; and

WHEREAS, The City of Key West has played several vital roles in Middle Passage history and heritage, including the finding of the 1700 wreck of the English slaver Henrietta Marie by the late legendary treasure hunter Mel Fisher, the 1827 wreck of the Spanish slaver Guerrero, and the 1860 rescue and housing of 1,432 African captives from three captured American-owned slave ships captured by the U.S. Navy; and

WHEREAS, 295 of that number were buried in Key West at a site adjacent to Higgs Memorial Beach, having died during their detention here while awaiting their return to Africa; despite the exemplary generosity of the Key West community in providing housing and other needs, bring national recognition to the southernmost city; and

WHEREAS, the location of most of these burials having been found by Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveys, this burial site now constitutes an important Key West landmark, identified by a uniquely designed memorial monument and officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places;

NOW, THEREFORE, by this proclamation I, Craig Cates, Mayor; Sam Kaufman, District II Commissioner and Clayton Lopez, District VI Commissioner, do hereby declare March 25th, 2016

International Day for the Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

WITNESS our hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 1st day of March, 2016.

Mayor Craig Cates

Commissioner Sam Kaufman

Vice-Mayor Clayton Lopez