



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, every year more than 1.58 million Americans living with life-limiting illness, and their families, receive care from the nation's hospice programs in communities throughout the United States; and
- WHEREAS, the *Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of the Florida Keys* offers the highest quality of care to patients and families in Key West and the Florida Keys; and
- WHEREAS, VNA/Hospice brings comfort, love and respect to all those they serve in our local community; and
- WHEREAS, VNA/Hospice allows people to spend their final months surrounded by family and loved ones at home – wherever home may be; and
- WHEREAS, the VNA/Hospice team consists of palliative care professionals—including physicians, nurses, social workers, therapists, counselors, certified nursing assistants, home health aides, and chaplains—providing comprehensive and compassionate care that make the wishes of each patient and family a priority; and
- WHEREAS, trained volunteers generously contribute their time and talents to VNA/Hospice; and
- WHEREAS, through pain management and symptom control, caregiver training and assistance, and emotional and spiritual support, patients under the care of VNA/Hospice are able to live as fully as possible through the journey at life's end; and
- WHEREAS, the provision of quality hospice and palliative care reaffirms our belief in the essential dignity of every person, regardless of age, health, spiritual belief, sexual orientation or social status; and that every stage of human life deserves to be treated with the utmost respect and care as a member of our One Human Family.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim
November, 2012 as

National Hospice and Palliative Care Month

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States" I would like to urge all citizens, residents and visitors of our Southernmost City to encourages all people to learn more about options of care and to share their wishes with family, loved ones, and their healthcare professionals.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 7th day of November 2012.

Craig Cates, MAYOR