



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Tom Hambright has served the Monroe County Public Library and the entire Florida Keys community as Local Historian at the Key West Library for the past 30 years. He is acclaimed for his extensive knowledge of the history of Key West and the Florida Keys, not just throughout Monroe County but throughout the entire State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Before joining the Library staff, Tom served 21 years with the Navy, retiring as Lieutenant Commander. Following that retirement, he worked as Curator for the Lighthouse Museum and East Martello for three years; and

WHEREAS, In his 30 years of Library service, Tom has given presentations on Keys history to most of the non-profit organizations in the County, from Key Largo to Key West. He has worked with authors, students, journalists, film producers, and scholars, sharing his wealth of knowledge. He assisted in the planning for and construction of a new wing for the Florida History collection that he has helped to develop and now oversees. He was honored as Monroe County Employee of the Year in 1999. Over the last decade, he has contributed over 18,000 digital images with descriptions from the Florida History photographic collection to the Flickr website, which has garnered over 14 million hits since its debut online; and

WHEREAS, Tom has served on the Board of Directors of the Old Island Restoration Foundation, Salvation Army, and the Key West Art and Historical Society. He has also served on the board of the Key West Maritime Historical Society and has published articles in the *Florida Keys Sea Heritage Journal* and *The Florida Genealogist*. He has produced the daily column "Today in Keys History" for the Key West Citizen with his wife, Lynda, since 1998, and is a regular contributor to numerous other historical publications; and

WHEREAS, Although the Florida History archival collection has grown to be an extensive collection of unique materials, Tom's own memory is the real treasure of the collection. Tom Hambright is an extraordinary ambassador for Monroe County, and the City of Key West, and a historic treasure to the community. We are extremely grateful for his 30 years of extraordinary service.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, and the entire Key West City Commission do hereby proclaim January 5, 2016, as

Tom Hambright Day

WITNESS our hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 5th day of January, 2016.

Jimmy Weekley, District I Commissioner

Craig Cates, Mayor

Richard Payne, District IV Commissioner

Billy Wardlow, District III Commissioner

Clayton Lopez, District VI Commissioner

Margaret Romero, District V Commissioner

Sam Kaufman, District II Commissioner