



## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, recreational boating is a major activity for the citizens of the City of Key West, and
- WHEREAS, the ability to operate boats safely is a significant enhancement to the enjoyment of this activity, and
- WHEREAS, the United States Power Squadrons® through its local Key West Sail and Power Squadron is joined with the Key West City Commission in promoting education about safe boating for all of our citizens; and
- WHEREAS, the Key West Sail and Power Squadron provides a valuable service to the community through its activities including boating safety education and complementary vessel safety examinations to the boating public, and
- WHEREAS, the Key West Sail and Power Squadron is sponsoring an event featuring a variety of boating safety experiences that is open to the community free of charge, and
- WHEREAS, it is a fact that 75% of all persons that go overboard drown, and that 87% of those were reported to have been able to swim; and
- WHEREAS, the vast majority of these accidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not due to boat, equipment or environmental factors; and
- WHEREAS, it is a fact that 100% of drowning fatalities were not wearing a life jacket; and
- WHEREAS, most of those boaters who lost their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets; and
- WHEREAS, modern life jackets are more comfortable, more attractive and more wearable than styles of years past and deserve a fresh look by today's boating public;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim  
May 21-28, 2017 as

## NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States" and urge those who boat to "Boat Smart - Boat Safe- and Wear It", and to practice safe boating habits at all times.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 16th day of May, 2017.

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Craig Cates, Mayor