



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, On April 18, 1982, I received a phone call from my father Charles Wardlow, Sr., a ham radio operator, informing me of a roadblock in the upper keys causing a 23-mile-long traffic jam; and

WHEREAS, I started making phone calls to city, county, state and federal officials to get information about this economy choking roadblock; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Dante Fascell informed me that the border patrol had set up a check point at the entrance to the Florida Keys, and gave me the phone number for the border patrol captain; and

WHEREAS, I contacted the captain of the border patrol, who informed me that it was none of my business and hung up on me; and

WHEREAS, I, Dennis J. Wardlow, Mayor of Key West, then made it my business, and contacted Dave Horan, a federal attorney, Virginia Panico president of the Hotel and Motel association, and Ed Swift president of the Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Dave Horan filed an injunction at the Miami Federal Courthouse with a federal judge at noon April 22, to remove the check point. The injunction was denied; and

WHEREAS, On the Courthouse steps, I pulled out our Key West Flag, designed by Claude Valdez our own Betsy Ross and proclaimed that at noon on April 23, 1982, I as Prime Minister would secede, and we would become the Conch Republic. If they are going to treat us as a foreign country, then we are going to become a foreign country; and

WHEREAS, On April 23, 2025, I Dennis Wardlow, Prime Minister of the Conch Republic, will raise our flag once again to celebrate our 43rd anniversary.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Danise Henriquez, Mayor of the City of Key West, along with the entire Key West City Commission do hereby proclamation the year 2025 as the 43rd year of

CONCH REPUBLIC

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States." I would like to urge all citizens, residents, and visitors of our Southernmost City to participate fittingly in the observation.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 4th day of June 2025.


Danise Henriquez, Mayor

