



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Key West recognizes and celebrates citizens whose exceptional leadership, public service, and dedication have made a lasting and meaningful impact on our island community; and

WHEREAS, **Bill Verge** has devoted many years of distinguished service to the City of Key West, serving on the **Key West Bight Board** for three years, the **Planning Board** for four years, and as a **City Commissioner** for four years, always working to preserve and enhance the unique character of our community; and

WHEREAS, Bill Verge also served as **Vice Chair of the Charter Review Committee**, demonstrating an enduring commitment to good government, responsible leadership, and the continued strength of the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, for seventeen years, Bill Verge has been instrumental in operating the **USCGC Ingham Museum**, helping bring the historic cutter to Key West and preserving one of America's most decorated Coast Guard vessels as a treasured maritime museum, educational resource, and symbol of our community's rich naval heritage; and

WHEREAS, Bill Verge played a pivotal role in the successful effort to bring the **USS Vandenberg** to Key West, where it was intentionally deployed as one of the world's premier artificial reefs, enhancing marine conservation, expanding recreational diving opportunities, and contributing significantly to the local economy and tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, before his many years of civic leadership, Bill Verge honorably served the United States for **twenty-three years in the United States Coast Guard**, including service as a **Vietnam veteran**, exemplifying courage, patriotism, and an unwavering commitment to duty; and

WHEREAS, through his military service, civic leadership, preservation of maritime history, and steadfast dedication to the people of Key West, Bill Verge has left an enduring legacy that will continue to benefit future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, **Mayor Danise "DeeDee" Henriquez** and **Vice Mayor Donald "Donie" Lee**, on behalf of the City Commission of the City of Key West, Florida, do hereby proclaim **July 1, 2026**, as

"BILL VERGE DAY"

in the City of Key West, and express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for his extraordinary service, leadership, patriotism, and lasting contributions to the City of Key West.

Witness my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 1st day of July 2026.


Danise Henriquez
Mayor, City of Key West


Donald Lee
Vice Mayor, City of Key West

