



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Frank Peter Toppino was born on June 15, 1923 in Winter Park, Florida to Charley and Orsolina Toppino; and

WHEREAS, Charley Toppino & Sons was established in the 1920's and moved to Homestead in 1933 for work. As a teenager Frank worked his first job driving trucks from Homestead down to Marathon, delivering potable water to contractors building bridges over the overseas railroad via ducts after the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935 washed away the tracks; and

WHEREAS, in the 1940's Charley Toppino and Sons and family relocated to Key West and in 1941 Frank enlisted in the US Airforce, where he spent 15 months in Kung Ming China. He was honorably discharged as Staff Sergeant on December 29, 1945 and he headed back to Key West. In 1947 he married Betty Rose and they had three children, Daniel, Ramona and Richard; and

WHEREAS, Frank has been an active member of the community with his time and financial support. He was on the board or a member of the Florida Keys Educational Foundation, Mel Fisher Museum, Military Affairs Committee, Monroe County Contractors Association, and the Sunrise Rotary. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Florida Keys Community College, served as President of the Key West Chamber of Commerce, and was appointed to the Key West Housing Authority Board of Commissioners in November of 1991 by former Mayor Dennis Wardlow and he has served ever since (nearly 32 years); and

WHEREAS, his service and generosity has been acknowledged by many awards and recognition. Frank was the 1993 Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame recipient, won the Florence Spottswood Humanitarian of the Year Award, and the Frank P. Toppino Poinciana Gardens Senior Living Complex was dedicated in honor of him in recognition of his outstanding dedicated service providing for the housing needs of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR of the City of Key West, along with the entire Key West City Commission do hereby proclaim June 15, 2023 as

FRANK PETER TOPPINO DAY

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 this observation.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 8^h day of May, 2023.

Teri Johnston, Mayor

Commissioner Jimmy Weekley