



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, In 1978, Gilbert Baker created the rainbow flag for his friend, Harvey Milk. And the LGBT community adopted that flag as the symbol of diversity and equality.

WHEREAS, The City of Key West, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Rainbow Flag, came together as a community to produce the Sea to Sea Diversity Flag.

WHEREAS, Gilbert Baker and countless of volunteers made history by displaying the longest Rainbow Flag across our great island down Duval Street. Connecting the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean, just over a mile long.

WHEREAS, The City of Key West embraced Gilbert Baker as part of our community and he was presented with the Key to the Island by Mayor Weekly.

WHEREAS, Key West, a small town that proudly flies the Rainbow Flag in our City Hall, 365 days a year.

WHEREAS, Gilbert Baker, the “Gay Betsy Ross”, now dances in the sky amongst the beautiful rainbows and we will always remember, June 15, 2003, the day that changed our island forever.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim
June 15th as

GILBERT BAKER 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 the observation
WITNESS our hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 6th day of June 2017

Craig Cates, Mayor