



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS,

In 1942, President Roosevelt established a presidential directive giving African Americans an opportunity to be recruited into the Marine Corps. These African Americans were segregated -experiencing basic training at Montford Point- a facility at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where approximately twenty thousand African American Marines received basic training at Montford Point between 1942-1949; and

WHEREAS,

The proud and courageous feats of the Montford Point Marines had been buried and over looked for approximately 65 years when President Obama signed the order for the Congressional Gold Medal to be presented by Congress to the Montford Point Marines; and

WHEREAS,

At the White House on June 27th, 2012, approximately 368 living (ages 87-91) original Montford Point Marines were there and were presented with the Congressional Gold Medal by the Atlanta Branch Montford Point Marine Association; and

WHEREAS,

At least 8 men from the small island of Key West served in World War II as Montford Point Marines: Nathan "Joker" Tynes, James Hall, Charles "Bookie" Allen, Sr., Charles Manuel, Shedrack "Candyman" Hannibal, Jr., William "Boss" Johnson Sr., Clarence "Fly" Alce, Sr. and George Carey; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Cates, Mayor, and Clayton Lopez, District 6 Commissioner, and of the City of Key West do hereby proclaim Tuesday, November 17th, 2015,

Montford Point Marines 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 17th day of November, 2015.

Craig Cates, Mayor

Clayton Lopez, District VI Commissioner