

# PROCLAMATION

## HONORING WILLIAM “BILLY” WILSON, III

**WHEREAS**, Indian River County celebrates African American Pioneers who, through their service in the business, public, and elected arenas, have paved the way for this and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, William “Billy” Wilson, III, was a lifelong resident of Indian River County, a loyal husband, father of two accomplished sons, and gifted multi-sport athlete and coach; and

**WHEREAS**, Billy was a member of the Vero Beach High School Class of 1981; subsequently matriculated at Florida A&M University, where he graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and received further acclaim for both his athletic skill and sportsmanship; and, in 1993, earned his Master’s in Educational Leadership from Nova University; and

**WHEREAS**, Billy returned to Vero Beach in 1986, where he served as Dean of Students and taught physical education and driver’s education until his 1994 promotion to assistant principal as a founding staff member at Sebastian River High School, finally retiring in 2020 after a 26-year career at the campus; and

**WHEREAS**, Billy, with his father, William Henry Wilson, coached back-to-back state championship track and field teams at Vero Beach High School in 1989 and 1990, then established and coached a local Amateur Athletic Union youth basketball team, winning state basketball championships in 2000 and 2002; and

**WHEREAS**, Billy was a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., the Florida Athletic Coaches Association, the NAACP, and the Fort Pierce Chapter of the Florida A&M Alumni Association; he received numerous awards and recognition over his career, including the “Making a Difference in the Treasure Coast Community” award in 2007 from Treasure Coast Chapter of The Links; and

**WHEREAS**, Billy was a member of the Steward Board and Choir at Allen Chapel AME Church in Wabasso, and served as the Church School Superintendent for over 20 years.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that the pioneer spirit and civic contributions of Billy Wilson, III, greatly enriched Indian River County and the Treasure Coast, and that the Board lauds the genuinely outstanding efforts of “the heartbeat of Sebastian River High School,” a man who never missed an opportunity to mentor our County’s youth about the power of leadership, integrity, perseverance, responsibility, and trustworthiness, both in the classroom and on the fields of athletic competition.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,  
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman

---

Peter D. O’Bryan, Vice Chairman

---

Susan Adams

---

Joseph H. Earman

---

Laura Moss

