

PROCLAMATION

DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 20 THROUGH MAY 26, 2017, AS NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

WHEREAS, recreational boating is fun and enjoyable, and the citizens and visitors of Indian River County are fortunate that we have sufficient waterway and ocean resources to accommodate a wide variety of pleasure boating activity. However, boating can be a risky activity to the unprepared; and,

WHEREAS, not knowing or obeying the nautical "Rules of the Road," using alcohol or drugs while operating a boat, or choosing not to wear a life jacket are examples of very risky boating activity often leading to disaster. On average, nearly seven hundred (700) people die each year in the boating related accidents in the United States with the preponderance of them occurring while using small open boats (46%), and surprisingly, 23% occurring with kayaks and canoes; and,

WHEREAS, knowledge and skills are important in reducing human error and improving judgment, so we must continue to spread the messages of boating safety, not only during National Safe Boating Week, but also throughout the entire year; and,

WHEREAS, thanks to the courageous women and men of the United States Coast Guard who serve our Nation and are always ready to help keep our citizens safe on the water, I encourage everyone to visit www.USCGBoating.org to learn more about responsible boating. Together we can enjoy the beauty and bounty of the water and avoid preventable death, injuries and property damage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA hereby supports the goals of the North American Safe Boating Campaign, including the "Wear it" Life Jacket program, and designate May 20 through 26, 2017, as Safe Boating Week in Indian River County, and the Board encourages all citizens who participate in boating activities to observe this occasion by learning more about safe boating practices and by taking advantage of boating safety education.

Adopted this 16th day of May, 2017.

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

Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman

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