

Proclamation

HONORING VICTOR HART SR.

Whereas, Victor Hart Sr., born in 1931 in Old Bight Settlement on Cat Island, Bahamas, journeyed to Gifford in 1953 where he dedicated his life to uplifting the community; and

Whereas, he fearlessly confronted the injustices of segregation, organizing the Progressive Civic League and serving as the longtime president of the Indian River County NAACP chapter, thereby opening doors of opportunity for countless residents; and

Whereas, through his humble yet unflinching leadership, he brought lasting improvements to Gifford, including clean water, paved roads, streetlights, medical and community centers, the Gifford Youth Achievement Center, and the park that now bears his name; and

Whereas, he lived his values authentically and unapologetically, instilling integrity, respect, and civic responsibility in his family and neighbors, reminding all that “I can disagree with you, but I don’t have to be disagreeable”; and

Whereas, his legacy was formally recognized when Gifford Park was renamed the Victor Hart Sr. Community Enhancement Complex, the first county-owned facility named for a person of color, a permanent testament to his decades of service.

Now, Therefore, be it Proclaimed by the Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida, that we honor Victor Hart Sr.’s unwavering courage and selfless devotion to his community, celebrate his enduring contributions to justice, and pledge to carry forward the values he embodied: humility, integrity, and love for the people of Gifford.

Adopted this 10th day of February 2026.

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

Deryl Loar, Chairman

Laura Moss, Vice Chairman

Susan Adams

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Joeseeph H. Earman