

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEER ERNIE JAMES GRIER

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, Ernie James Grier was born and raised in Indian River County; he moved to Gifford in 1958 and in 1969 he attended Vero Beach High School as it was desegregated for the first time; and

Whereas, Mr. Grier worked as an EMT for a volunteer ambulance helping the vulnerable and those in need before enlisting in the Army where he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant; and

Whereas, upon being honorably discharged, Mr. Grier joined the Press Journal where he worked as a cameraman, photographer, and pressman and was frequently the first on the scene in many of the county's major events and cases, he would later create the Indian River Times newspaper and Gifford Life magazine; and

Whereas, in 2021 Mr. Grier was instrumental in the fruition of the Gifford Water Tower which now stands as a symbol of the resiliency and pride Gifford residents exemplify.

Now, Therefore, be it Proclaimed by the Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida, we applaud Ernie James Grier and his outstanding contributions to the community. He has been paramount in preserving the culture, heritage and sense of place in Gifford while showing great passion for its great citizens.

Adopted this 23rd day of January, 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

Susan Adams, Chairman

Joseph E. Flescher, Vice Chairman

Joseph H. Earman

Deryl Loar

Laura Moss