



Proclamation

WHEREAS, seventy-five years ago, on June 6, 1944, before dawn broke across the beaches of Normandy, scores of allied service members prepared to fight a battle that would decide the fate of freedom in the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, the odds weighed against them as the Nazis had fortified the Atlantic Wall against a seaborne invasion, lined the coast with mines, and planted sharpened poles to await allied paratroopers; and

WHEREAS, American, British and Canadian forces advanced through thickets of barbed wire and scaled heavily protected cliffs, braving gales of bullets and artillery fire, and taking heavy losses as they cut through Nazi defenses and thousands gave their last full measure of devotion; and

WHEREAS, by the end of the day, the ground on which they died was free once more and victory dealt a significant blow to an ideology fueled by hatred, and allowed America and our allies to secure a foothold in France, open a path to Berlin, and liberate a continent from the grip of tyranny, making possible the achievements of shared prosperity and security that followed the end of World War II; and

WHEREAS, today, we are profoundly honored to have present with us Douglas Oswald, William Flanigan and Clinton Burrs – three valiant patriots who were part of that giant undertaking unparalleled in human history that made victory possible by their efforts: these three men before you today are the champions who helped free a continent; they are the heroes who helped end a war; they put aside the instinct for self-preservation and risked their lives - inspired by faith and belief, loyalty and love; and we pay tribute to them and to all the patriots of D-Day who through their courage and sacrifice, changed the course of an entire century; and

WHEREAS, as we carry on the struggle for liberty and universal human rights, let us draw strength from a moment when free nations beat back the forces of oppression and gave new hope to the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kent Guinn, by the virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, hereby proclaim June 6, 2019 as D-Day Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Day and I call upon all residents of Ocala and Marion County to remember on this day those brave men living and dead who did so much to open this path to victory and peace.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Ocala, Florida, to be affixed this 31st day of May 2019.

Kent Guinn, Mayor
City of Ocala

