



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Eugene “Gene” Matthews was born March 16, 1936 and was raised in Brooklyn NY. Gene and Lorraine were married in 1960. They have three children Debbie, Diane and Steve. The Matthews family moved to North Port in 1972, After high school, he joined the Army. During the Korean War he was stationed in Japan; and

WHEREAS, Gene opened an independent Allstate Insurance Agency in 1982, which became a 2nd generation North Port business in 1999; he helped start the City’s first newspaper, “The North Port News”, and hosted a TV program devoted to North Port, “A View from Here”; and

WHEREAS, Gene has served on many North Port and Sarasota County boards and committees including the North Port Volunteer Fire Department, Little League, Kiwanis, Metropolitan Planning Organization, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, and West Villages Improvement District; and

WHEREAS, Gene served on the Sarasota County School Board where he was instrumental in purchasing property, which is now the location of the North Port High School. Gene also served as a Sarasota County Commissioner from where he worked tirelessly for North Port; and

WHEREAS, Gene strongly felt the need for North Port children to have a safe place after school and during the summer. The Boys and Girls Club honored Gene’s commitment and dedication by naming the North Port Club, the Gene Matthews Boys and Girls Club. Today, his devotion to this cause continues as an advisory member; and

WHEREAS, he has been recognized as North Port Citizen of the Year, North Port Businessman of the Year, and the first North Port Chamber of Commerce Business Advocate of the Year; and in 2008, the North Port City Commission proclaimed Eugene “Gene” Matthews, to be officially known as “Mr. North Port”; and

WHEREAS, service to community is one of Gene’s passions. He could not have accomplished all of this without the love, support, encouragement and strength of his loving wife Lorraine; and

WHEREAS, Gene has a life quote: “Do what’s right and fair” and has proven he lives this motto every day.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 11th, 2023 as:

“Gene Matthews Day”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and Seal of the City of North Port, Florida, to be affixed this 11th day of April 2023.

CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA


Barbara Langdon, Mayor


Alice White, Vice-Mayor


Pete Emrich, Commissioner




Debbie McDowell, Commissioner


Phil Stokes, Commissioner

ATTEST


Heather Faust, City Clerk