

Proclamation

City of North Port



Whereas, the roots of the Gary Sinise Foundation follow Gary's journey from self to service particularly his playing the character of Lt. Dan Taylor in Forrest Gump, who became a symbol of our country's collective awareness of all our injured veterans, especially Vietnam Veterans; and

Whereas, Lt. Dan brought to audiences near and far the struggles many Vietnam Veterans experienced on their return home from deployment. Yet his character also demonstrated resiliency and courage of the human spirit to overcome these hardships. The character was a source of inspiration for Gary to support and advocate for our nation's Veterans and the real Lt. Dan's from conflicts past and present; and

Whereas, upon receiving the National Commander's Award from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) on August 21, 1994, for his performance as Lt. Dan Taylor, Gary was moved to honor and show appreciation for our military service members and their families, before, during, and after the battle which became a lifelong passion of his from that moment onward; and

Whereas, when the Gary Sinise Foundation began in June 2011, it was at that moment that his journey from self to service was realized; and

Whereas, in 2019, the Gary Sinise Foundation raised over \$40 million in support of our nation's defenders, Veterans, First Responders, their families and those in need; and

Whereas, in part of the R.I.S.E. Specially Adapted Smart Home initiative, the Foundation has built 60 smart homes for wounded Veterans and First Responders; and

Whereas, through Serving Heroes, they have provided over 197,313 meals to U.S. service members nationwide and overseas; and

Whereas, since 2003, Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band have performed over 487 concerts for U.S. defenders, Veterans, First Responders, and their families; and

Whereas, through the First Responders Outreach program, they have provided 1,135 first responder training grants and 445 essential pieces of equipment; and

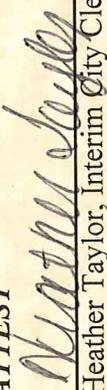
Whereas, 1,121 World War II Veterans and their guardians have participated in the Soaring Valor initiative, visiting the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.

Now, Therefore, WE, the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, do hereby proclaim February 21, 2020, as

GARY SINISE FOUNDATION DAY

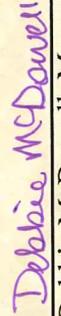
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE have hereunto set our hands and seal of the City of North Port, Florida, to be affixed this 6th day of February 2020.

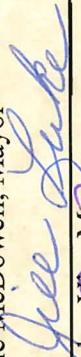
ATTEST


Heather Taylor, Interim City Clerk



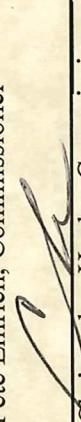
CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA


Debbie McDowell, Mayor


Jill Luke, Vice Mayor


Vanessa Carusone, Commissioner


Pete Emrich, Commissioner


Christopher Hanks, Commissioner