

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-120

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION ANNUALLY RECOGNIZING JUNE 3RD AS “FOUNDER’S DAY IN CORAL GABLES” IN HONOR OF CORAL GABLES FOUNDER GEORGE E. MERRICK.

WHEREAS, Coral Gables’ founding visionary George Edgar Merrick was born June 3, 1886 in the Pittsburgh suburbs of Springdale, Pennsylvania, less than 15 years before the turn of the century; and

WHEREAS, The Merrick family first moved to Miami, Florida from Duxbury, Massachusetts in 1898 when George was 12 years old; and

WHEREAS, in October 1915, Merrick was appointed by the Governor of Florida as County Commissioner in District 1, he spent the next 15 months on the commission championing the building of roads in South Florida, including major arteries that would later serve to connect his well-planned community of Coral Gables with the fast-growing City of Miami; and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 1916, Merrick married Eunice Isabella Peacock, daughter of Coconut Grove pioneers, R.A.S. Peacock and Lilian Irene Frow, and built a home for his bride, located at 937 Coral Way, in Coral Gables, a designated historic landmark known as the Merrick Cottage; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1922, on 3,000 acres of citrus groves and land covered in pine trees which his father had left him, Merrick began carving out a town along the lines of the “City Beautiful”; and

WHEREAS, he designed the new town in great detail featuring wide, tree-lined boulevards, delicate bridges and serene urban golf courses, expressing his passionate devotion to aesthetics and interest in focusing on the finest details of this town as well as the major ideas behind the project; and

WHEREAS, with Spanish architecture influence seen throughout the City, in 1927, Merrick was decorated by King Alfonso XIII of Spain with the “Order of Isabel la Catolica”, a Spanish civil order in which membership is granted in recognition of services that benefit the country; and

WHEREAS, Merrick was a man with many interests who supported civil society and places of worship, dedicating the first church built in the city, the Coral Gables Congregational Church, to his father, Solomon Merrick, who was a Congregational minister and a poet; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 1925, Merrick donated 160 acres and five million dollars to establish the University of Miami, believing that all great urban areas warranted institutions of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, Merrick grew into the “modern man” of the 20th century—an entrepreneur and visionary; He was active in Coral Gables for less than a decade from 1920 to 1928 and built a brand new city, the “City Beautiful,” which will turn 100 in 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission recognizes and designates June 3rd as Founder’s Day in Coral Gables, to salute the man whose vision, determination and dedication gave life to the City of Coral Gables;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission hereby recognizes June 3rd as “Founder’s Day in Coral Gables” in honor of Coral Gables founder George E. Merrick on an annual basis.

SECTION 3. That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TENTH DAY OF MAY, A. D., 2022.
(Moved: Anderson / Seconded: Menendez)
(Yeas: Menendez, Anderson, Fors, Jr., Mena, Lago)
(Unanimous: 5-0 Vote)
(Agenda Item: G-9)

APPROVED:

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VINCE LAGO
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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BILLY Y. URQUIA
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

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MIRIAM SOLER RAMOS
CITY ATTORNEY