

Office of the Mayor
The City of Coral Gables

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *Arbor Day*, was first observed with the planting of more than one million trees in Nebraska City, Nebraska on April 10, 1872, an idea that was first proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture by J. Sterling Morton. This event later evolved into a holiday that is celebrated and sponsored annually since 1985 by the City of Coral Gables, in conjunction with the City's Landscape Beautification Advisory Board and the Coral Gables Garden Club, as a reminder of the significance of our City's trees; and

WHEREAS, *trees* provide countless benefits to our community, including environmental, public health, social and economic benefits by improving our air quality, providing us with shade, enhancing our parks and public spaces, filtering and reducing stormwater runoff into our waterways, providing a natural habitat to our neighborhood wildlife while simultaneously increasing property values, and enhancing the vitality of the City's business areas while beautifying our community and business areas alike; and

WHEREAS, *Coral Gables Founder George Merrick* recognized and emphasized the importance of the natural beauty of this tropical landscape, and consequently hired Landscape Architect Frank Button, designer of Lincoln Park in Chicago, to design the grand vistas and tree-lined streets that still convey a quality of centuries-old permanence; and

WHEREAS, 2019 marks the ninety-fourth anniversary of the founding of the City of Coral Gables, as well as the thirty-fourth year as a "Tree City USA," accentuating the City's commitment and involvement of our citizenry, board members and employees alike, in furtherance of conserving our City's picturesque landscape;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAUL VALDES-FAULI, as Mayor of Coral Gables, along with the members of our City Commission, do hereby proclaim April 26, 2019 as:

"ARBOR DAY IN CORAL GABLES"

IN OBSERVANCE THEREOF, I call upon the citizens of the City of Coral Gables to join me in recognizing this annual noteworthy occasion – while concomitantly continuing our endeavor to preserve our City's valuable tree resource heritage, by supporting those efforts aimed at promoting our environment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto placed my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Coral Gables to be affixed on this twenty sixth day of March A.D., 2019.

Raul Valdes-Fauli
Mayor

Vince Lago
Vice Mayor

Patricia Keon
Commissioner

Michael Mena
Commissioner

Frank C. Quesada
Commissioner