

# Office of the Mayor The City of Coral Gables

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veteran's organization focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities. In 1926, the city gave the property on Aragon Avenue, which now houses the old police and fire station and today is a city museum; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1937 the City traded the Legion property for a property on Alhambra Circle which had been used by the WPA offices for offices and a supply center. The City's then existing fire station at Alcazar and Salzedo needed to be moved to allow for Consumers Water Company to build a water tower on said property because the city needed to build the new police and fire station more suited to meet the needs and provide service to its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legion at its own expense reconstructed and rehabilitated the city building and on February 16, 1938, at the completion of the work, the building was dedicated, and on the adjacent lot, an Auto Tag Agency was built providing service to its citizenry and operated as was the law, by only disabled veterans. In 1987, the property was modified for medical office use and continues to do so today. The Legion has evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, membership in local posts have sprung up expeditiously across the county, and today, it stands at over 2 million in more than 13,000 posts worldwide. These posts are organized into 55 departments; one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines; and

**WHEREAS**, over the years, the Legion has considerably influenced social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth. It was also instrumental in getting the original GI Bill through Congress and the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, today this organization is active throughout the United States, supporting current military personnel and veterans, sponsoring American Legion Baseball, Boys State Oratorical contests and other activities for youth, and pushing for the adoption of a constitutional amendment to prohibit desecration of the United States flag; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Legion is a staple in the community having been utilized for, and not limited to, services such as a voting precinct, Red Cross disaster relief headquarters, veterans meetings, start-up churches venue for church services, providing parade marshals for Junior Orange Bowl Parades, and the like;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAUL VALDES-FAULI**, as Mayor of the City of Coral Gables, along with the members of our City Commission, do hereby proclaim March 16, 2019 as:

### **“AMERICAN LEGION DAY IN CORAL GABLES”**

**IN OBSERVANCE THEREOF**, I encourage the citizens of our “City Beautiful” to recognize the importance of the American Legion and how fortunate we are to have Post 98 located here in the City of Coral Gables.

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

**Raul Valdes-Fauli**  
Mayor

*Vince Lago*  
Vice Mayor

*Patricia Keon*  
Commissioner

*Michael Mena*  
Commissioner

*Frank C. Quesada*  
Commissioner