

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, World War I – known at that time as “The Great War” – officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918 is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars”; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who die in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations.”; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress officially recognized November 11 each year as a legal holiday with the adoption of Act (52 Stat. 351: 5 U.S. Code, Sec. 87a) on May 13, 1938 – a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.” Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen in the Nation’s history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83<sup>rd</sup> Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting in its place the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11<sup>th</sup> became a day to honor American veterans of all wars; and

**WHEREAS**, Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the day, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** In recognition of this designation herein, the City Council hereby proclaims November 11 as Veterans Day and as directed by Congress to observe Veterans Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities and to display the flag in honor of our Veterans.

**Section 2.** A true copy of this Proclamation shall be spread upon the Official Minutes of the City Council of the City of Green Cove Springs.

**DONE AND PROCLAIMED THIS 12TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA.**

**CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA**

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Steven R. Kelley, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Erin West, City Clerk

