

Proclamation

Whereas, the Okeechobee Hurricane or San Felipe Segundo Hurricane, also known as the Storm of 1928, was one of the most devastating hurricanes in the recorded history of the North Atlantic basin and greatly affected the Glades community; and

Whereas, over 2,500 lives were lost. Of which, 1,600 of those victims were buried in mass graves, and many other victims were found on September 30, 1928; and

Whereas, annually, the City of Pahokee pays tribute to those who lost their lives during this catastrophic event and honors the three known surviving citizens who weathered the storm: Ethel Williams, Lucille Salvatore Heron, and Iris Salvatore Hodges; and

Whereas, Ethel Williams, who was born in Tyty, Georgia, moved to Pahokee, Florida, where she lived before moving to Indiantown, Florida. She kept her deep connection to the City of Pahokee as a long-standing and faithful member of the New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Pahokee; and

Whereas, Lucille Salvatore Heron, a proud resident of Pahokee for several decades, has been a productive member of society. Her bravery and courage to tell her family's story will forever be an inspiration for generations to come; and

Whereas, Iris Salvatore Hodges, a life-long resident of Pahokee, has been an inspiration to survivors and women alike. She has contributed in more ways than one, while sharing her story and serving as an inspiration to many.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Keith W. Babb, Jr., Mayor of the City of Pahokee, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission, hereby proclaim September 16th as:

“Ethel Williams, Lucille Salvatore Heron, and Iris Salvatore Hodges Day”

In official recognition whereof, I hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Pahokee to be affixed this 7th day of November 2022.

Keith W. Babb, Jr.

Mayor Keith W. Babb, Jr.

Clara Murvin

Vice Mayor Clara Murvin

Juan Gonzalez

Commissioner Juan Gonzalez

Derrick Boldin

Commissioner Derrick Boldin

Sara Perez

Commissioner Sara Perez