

Proclamation for World Polio Day

WHEREAS, In 1985 Rotary International launched PolioPlus and spearheaded the Global Polio Eradication Initiative with the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF to immunize the children of the world against polio; and

WHEREAS, polio cases have dropped by 99.9 percent since 1979 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease; and

WHEREAS, Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.2 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease; and

WHEREAS, To date, the global effort to eradicate polio has already saved more than \$27 billion in health care costs since 1988, and expects to save \$14 billion more by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Rotary is currently working to raise an additional \$200 million toward a \$355 million challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and

WHEREAS, eradication efforts must continue to provide immunization to more than 400 million children against polio every year and to improve disease surveillance systems to detect any poliovirus in a person or the environment; and

WHEREAS, These efforts are providing much needed operational support, medical personnel, laboratory equipment and educational materials for health workers and parents; and

WHEREAS, More than 1 million Rotary members have donated their time and money to eradicate polio, and every year, hundreds of members work with health workers to vaccinate children in countries affected by polio; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary Clubs of Mecklenburg County being part of the 56 clubs throughout our Rotary District 7680 with over 2,400 members sponsoring service projects to address such critical issues as poverty, health, hunger, illiteracy, and the environment in their local communities, and abroad; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Pineville is proud to have residents as members of at least two Rotary clubs in Mecklenburg County including the Charlotte Dilworth South End Club and the Charlotte International Club; and

IT IS THEREFORE NOW PROCLAIMED, that October 24, 2021 as World Polio Day in Pineville, North Carolina, and encourage all citizens to join me and Rotary International in the fight for a polio-free world.

Mayor Jack Edwards