

PROCLAMATION

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF OUR LOCAL LEGEND AND HERO JUDGE EDWARD RODGERS

WHEREAS, Honorable Retired Judge Edward Rodgers was an icon and mentor to many people in Florida. In Riviera Beach, the city he called home, and to the citizens that he faithfully and compassionately served here, he will always be our local LEGEND and HERO. Having moved to South Florida during a time when blacks couldn't sit in restaurants to eat, swim in city pools or tee off on public golf courses throughout West Palm Beach, Judge Edward Rodgers chose to live in the city of Riviera Beach, a community he dearly loved; and

WHEREAS, seeing Judge on the bench in his long black robe was an awesome site on any given day of the week, it was his weekend court hearings in Riviera Beach that excited the judge the most as he handed down humanitarian sentences to young drug offenders. Judge Rodgers believed that his Saturday Drug Courts where he sent youth to treatment centers, instead of jail, was the best way to save hundreds, if not thousands of families from the ills of drug and alcohol abuse. The U S Supreme Court apparently agreed, awarding him the prestigious Jefferson Award for his intuitive benevolence. Judge Rodgers considered the establishment of his non-traditional Saturday Drug Court hearings, his most satisfying, personal achievement; and

WHEREAS, carrying both sides of this waterfront city in his first run for political office, winning a coveted seat on the Riviera Beach City Council, Judge Rodgers' leadership skills were on clear display. The judge stately possessed the unique ability to lead with distinction and skillfully exercised compromise to achieve consensus among his fellow Councilmembers, therein uplifting the spirit of residents, businesses, visitors and other stakeholders, which were always at the forefront of his decision making. Judge Rodgers introduced the practice of having an 'agenda review' session before council meetings, ensuring members clearly understood every issue about to be discussed. He personally hoped the review sessions would be instrumental in curtailing council meetings, preventing them from lasting too long into the night because, he said jokingly, "I'm an old man, I need my beauty rest"; and

WHEREAS, some life changes take generations, while others require little to no pondering at all. In 2003 his former class mate, our longtime Congressman, Alcee Hastings, proposed renaming the federal post office on Blue Heron Boulevard after our local legend and hero. In less than a year's time, it was complete. By spring 2004 the City rededicated the Judge Edward Rodgers United States Post Office, Riviera Beach, Florida; and

WHEREAS, I would be remiss to not take this opportunity to acknowledge that Judge Edward Rodgers' efforts in a multitude of civic reformations prompted the highest acclaim. Accordingly, as an activist and legal eagle, he vehemently championed human and civil rights and equality across all racial, gender, ethnic and socio-economic groups. The judge provided invaluable counseling on many issues in Riviera Beach. He was so diplomatic at expressing his opinions, one could often leave a conversation with Judge Rogers believing that his ideas were really your own. Case in point, height restrictions for Singer Island development is in large part the result of Judge Rodgers' opposition to putting high rise condos on the public beach. Judge Edward Rodgers was also a strong supporter of renaming Old Dixie in honor of our 44th President, 'President Barack Obama Highway'; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Judge Edward Rogers was a close confidant to this Mayor and a good friend to Councilwoman Lynne Hubbard. Their relationships were resonant and emotional during the swearing-in ceremonies that the Judge performed for each after their 2016 elections. Yes, Judge Rodgers was revered as an icon by many people in this state, but to the City and citizens of Riviera Beach, Florida, Honorable Judge Edward Rodgers will always be our local LEGEND and HERO.

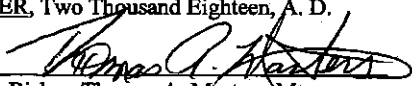
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Bishop Thomas A. Masters, Mayor of the City of Riviera Beach, Florida, by the power vested in me by the residents of this great City do hereby

Resolve Employee No. 5379 and proclaim the week of October 22nd to October 28th commencing in 2019, in perpetuity, as HONORABLE JUDGE EDWARD RODGERS' WEEK in the City of Riviera Beach, FL to reflect and remember the life and legacy of an accomplished public servant, our beloved Judge Edward Rodgers.

An original of this memorial Proclamation shall be placed in the hands of the Rodgers Family and an original will be placed by the City Clerk in the official records of the City of Riviera Beach, Florida.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Riviera Beach, Florida to be affixed on this 27th day of OCTOBER, Two Thousand Eighteen, A. D.

ATTEST:


Bishop Thomas A. Masters, Mayor

Claudene L. Anthony, CMC City Clerk