

*Office of the Mayor
Foley, Alabama*

Proclamation

WHEREAS, on behave of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 32, Foley, Alabama, Flotilla, please be aware of the dangers that lurk in the water that surround our communities; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in Foley, Alabama plays an important part in our community, while providing Public Education, and Vessel Safety Checks for surrounding cities. They also provide Search and Rescue patrols for boaters that may be stranded or have lost their way. There are information boxes located at libraries courthouses, public ramps, marine dealers and many other locations; and

WHEREAS, recreational boating is fun and enjoyable, and we are fortunate that we have sufficient resources to accommodate the wide variety of pleasure boating demands. However, our waterways can become crowded with over 350 thousand new boats that have entered our waters each year, competing with each other in the same space we had 20 years ago. The latest U.S. Coast Guard statistic reports that in over 70% of boating fatalities, the victims were not wearing life jackets; and

WHEREAS, every year the National Safety Council strives to let boaters know the importance to "Wear It" your Personal Life Jacket, it makes good sense. This is vital to show the knowledge and skills in order to reduce human error and improve boating skills while on the water; and

WHEREAS, seven hundred people die each year in boating-related accidents in the U.S.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John E. Koniar, Mayor, proclaim May 16th through May 22nd, 2015 as "**National Safe Boating Week**" and I urge all boaters while on the water to "**WEAR IT**" and practice safe boating habits. Vessel Examiners will be performing FREE Vessel Safety Checks at public ramps. Please remember the Coast Guard Auxiliary Does Not Give Tickets, the Coast Guard and Marine Police Do! Please wear your life jacket when underway over the waters. Also, children should wear life jackets while walking on the piers near water to enter a boat.



In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand on this 20th Day of April, 2015

Attest: