Office of the Mayor Foley, Alabama Proclamation

WHEREAS, on behave of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 32, Foley, Alabama, Flotilla Commander, Wayne Kindred invites you to 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; 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; 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 hope of everyone wearing their life jacket will drift away as the weather becomes warmer until it becomes too uncomfortable to wear it at all. All boaters and passengers should think more about safety and the elements to "Wear It" in a responsible way. 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 days the Life Jackets are more comfortable, more attractive, and more wearable than styles of the past years and deserve a fresh look by today's boating public

NOW, THEREFORE, I John E. Koniar, Mayor, proclaim May 17th through May 23rd, 2014 as "National Safe Boating Week" and I urge all boaters while on the water to "WEAR IT" and practice safe boating habits. Please encourage all around you on boats and children to watch each other and challenge each other to WEAR IT, for a better tomorrow.

> In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand on this 7th Day of April, 2014