

*Office of the Mayor
Foley, Alabama
Proclamation*

WHEREAS, according to the American Cancer Society, approximately 13,500 children under the age of 15 will be diagnosed with cancer in 2014, and approximately one in five children diagnosed with cancer will die within the first five years; and

WHEREAS, 45 children in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer each day and at an average age of six-years-old; and

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death among children under the age of 15 according to the most recent statistics provided by the Centers for Disease Control, although survival rates for some forms of childhood cancers have risen sharply over the past few decades; and

WHEREAS, the types of cancers that affect children are most often very different from those that affect adults; October 23-31; and

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is not just one disease but is made up of a dozen types and countless subtypes of cancer, crosses all racial, ethnic, geographic, and social backgrounds, and each year tens of thousands of children face the battle of cancer with incredible bravery and inspiring hope; and

WHEREAS, the causes of most pediatric cancers are largely unknown and not strongly linked to life style, unlike adult cancers; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of childhood cancer patients will develop long-lasting chronic conditions resulting from treatment; and

WHEREAS, in the last 25 years, only 2 drugs have been specifically developed for children's cancer; and

WHEREAS, less than 5% of the federal government's total funding for cancer research is dedicated to childhood cancers, and only about 3% of funds raised for the National Cancer Institute go directly to pediatric cancer research; and

WHEREAS, the funding for pediatric cancer research has gone down steadily since 2003; and,

WHEREAS, despite the facts, childhood cancer research is vastly and consistently underfunded; and;

WHEREAS, despite major advances in treatment, it is still critically important to conduct research and increase awareness regarding pediatric cancer, and this month we honor the children in fighting the fight, their families and caregivers, the researchers, healthcare professionals, concerned citizen advocates, and private philanthropies who collaborate to provide hope and assistance to the children and their families affected by childhood cancer and to memorialize the young lives that have been taken too soon, and to honor those fighting and those who have survived yet face major health challenges associated with this disease, and the City of Gulf Shores recognizes the lasting devastating effects of childhood cancer,

Therefore, I, John E. Koniar, Mayor of the City of Foley, Alabama, do hereby proclaim September CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH in 2014 in order to help raise awareness of pediatric cancer and its victims.



ATTEST:


Victoria Southern