

Office of the Mayor
Foley, Alabama
Proclamation

WHEREAS, John Koniar began his service to the city in 1980 when he was elected to the city council representing District 3. He served as Mayor Pro Tem from 1996 until 2006, when he was appointed to serve the remainder of Former Mayor Timothy Russell's term of office. He was re-elected in 2008, 2012 and 2016. He has participated in almost every council meeting for the past 40 years. His calm, steady leadership style always looked for areas of agreement and compromise rather than conflict. He is leaving a city that he has led to what is currently the 3rd fastest growing city in our state; and

WHEREAS In 1980, Foley was a growing city with 4,000 residents and a budget of roughly \$1.5 million. During his twenty-six years as a city councilman, the city swelled to a population of about 12,403 by 2006, and the budget soared to \$26.4 million; and

WHEREAS, accomplishments during this time included the building of the Riviera Outlet Center (now Tanger Outlet Center); the opening of the Foley Beach Express in 2000, expansion of local industry and business growth that cemented Foley as the restaurant and retail hub of South Baldwin County; and

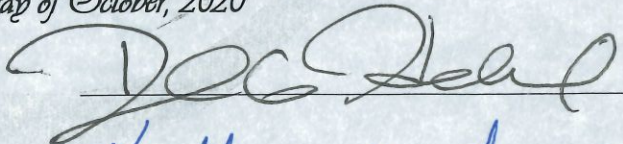
WHEREAS, during his 14 years as mayor, the city continued to be one of the fastest growing cities in the state. Foley expects to have a population count in the ongoing census of close to 25,000 and the budget has grown to just under \$50 million. New roads, Foley's entrance into the Sports Tourism market, which brings over 150 tournaments to the city each year, the opening of OWA and the securing of national retailers have elevated Foley from a small town into a growing city. Downtown revitalization efforts, including the Centennial Tower, pedestrian bridge, rose trail, dog park, downtown flower and streetscape improvements, public parking additions and receiving Main Street designation show that the city is thriving; and

WHEREAS, over the years, he efficiently led the city through crises that ranged from hurricanes, economic downturns, floods and an oil spill to this year's partial closure of the city due to COVID 19; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Koniar has earned his retirement and will now have more time to enjoy life in general, and his family - wife Linda, three children, five grandchildren, and large Golden Retriever named Sadie who thinks she is a lapdog.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor-Elect Ralph Hellmich and on behalf of the Foley City Council, staff and employees, do hereby find it an honor and distinct pleasure to honor Mayor John Koniar for his commitment to the City of Foley and do hereby celebrate his achievements and years of service as both a City Councilmember and Mayor and congratulate him on his retirement on November 2, 2020

*In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand on this 19th
day of October, 2020*


Attest: 

