



August is Palm Beach County Veteran Service Officers Appreciation Month

Last month I mentioned how one of things missing from our monthly board meetings are proclamations and special presentations. Sometimes they feature one of our own amazing county departments.

I have been waiting out Covid to sponsor a proclamation in chambers to highlight the amazing work of our [Veteran Services Division](#) and its officers. After consideration, I decided to proceed sooner rather than later and wanted to share the wording here:

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County Veterans Services Division's outstanding team of officers is composed of dedicated individuals -- Jose A. Capellan, W. Greg Dover, Cynthia W. Sjogren, Andrew J. Reese and Rohn C. Hultgren -- who serve the county's veterans with respect, equity, compassion, integrity, professionalism and empowerment, and;

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County has the third largest population of veterans in the state of Florida with a total of approximately 84,000, including more than 67,000 war-time veterans and 17,000 peacetime veterans, and;

WHEREAS, the division served 2,036 veterans, families, widows and their children in fiscal year 2019 in more than 30 different service categories, ensuring they receive financial, medical, educational, housing and other benefits, and;

WHEREAS, the financial benefits to the veterans and their families served in 2019 totaled approximately \$18 million in compensations and pensions, and;

WHEREAS, President Lincoln promised in his second inaugural address in March 1865, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan."

While there is not a county department I do not respect and admire, I hold a very special place in my heart for this division and the officers. I am beyond proud to sponsor this proclamation declaring August:

PALM BEACH COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS APPRECIATION MONTH

As always, I invite your comments on any issue of interest to you. As your Commissioner, I am here to help you. You may write me at 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, 33401 or at MBerger@pbcgov.org. You can call me or my staff at 561-355-2205 or toll free at 877-930-2205. Please visit me on the Web at www.pbcgov.com/d5.