



# PROCLAMATION

## In Honor of

# Philip S. Peterson, Jr.

*February 24, 1924 - September 25, 2015*

WHEREAS, Philip "Phil" Peterson, Jr. was born on February 24, 1924, in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where his family were cherry farmers since the late 1800's; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Phil proudly served in the Navy in the Pacific aboard the destroyer USS Bearss, a member of the escort fleet for the signing of the treaty that ended the war; and

WHEREAS, upon returning from the war at the age of 21, Phil used the money he saved up while in the Navy and bought a Harley-Davidson motorcycle; and

WHEREAS, at this same time, Phil married Charlotte and continued to farm and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, during the 1950's, Phil pursued his love of motorcycle racing and became friends with Walter C. Davidson of Harley-Davidson who approached him about becoming a dealer which led to the opening of his first dealership in Key West; and

WHEREAS, after missing Wisconsin and going back for a period of time to work on their farm, Phil finally retired in July 1965, packed up the family and came back to Florida, this time to their home in the Village of Biscayne Park; and

WHEREAS, the Peterson Harley-Davidson dealerships grew with locations in Cutler Bay, Miami Gardens, and the original location in Key West, and while he became an icon as a Harley dealer in South Florida for the past 61 years, Phil and his family remained a part of the Village community; and

WHEREAS, part of his legacy was his support of charities, and his generosity included his hometown, the Village of Biscayne Park, where he supported many events, most notably escorting Santa Claus on his side car during the annual Winterfest parade.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED BY the Mayor and Village Commission of the Village of Biscayne Park** that the Village of Biscayne Park and its residents honor and remember Mr. Phil Peterson with great fondness and admiration.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, in the year two thousand fifteen.

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David Coviello, Mayor