

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Isle of Palms Exchange Club, a community service organization dedicated to making the Isle of Palms a better place to live through programs of service that promote Americanism, Community Service, Youth Activities and its national project, the Prevention of Child Abuse, celebrated its 65 year anniversary on April 24, 2013; and,

WHEREAS, the group of active citizens and City Council members who worked to incorporate the City of Isle of Palms also founded the Exchange Club three (3) years before the City was incorporated. During this time, the Exchange Club provided essential services to the residents of Isle of Palms, including mosquito control, staff for the first fire-wagon and sponsorship of a volunteer fire department; and,

WHEREAS, the Exchange Club continued to contribute to civic activities including white street signs, some of which are still in use on the island, sponsorship of the first church on the island, creation of a playground, and the construction of an airport; and,

WHEREAS, in 1961, the current clubhouse for the Exchange Club was built on land donated by J.C. Long, an important figure in Isle of Palms' history, and still provides meeting space for many essential community events; and,

WHEREAS, the Isle of Palms Exchange Club still works in partnership with the City for many activities, including the sponsorship of sport teams like baseball, soccer and football and the sponsorship of concessions at the annual Lowcountry Blues Bash; and,

WHEREAS, for the past twenty-one (21) years, the Isle of Palms Exchange Club has worked in partnership with the Isle of Palms Recreation Department, the Mount Pleasant Exchange Club and the Town of Mount Pleasant to host the Isle of Palms Connector Run for the Child which has raised over half a million dollars to support agencies who work towards the prevention of child abuse, the primary mission of the Exchange Club; and,

WHEREAS, each year the Isle of Palms Exchange Club hosts an oyster roast and the proceeds provide at least four (4) college scholarships. In 2012, the Exchange Club awarded "Meeks-Sottile" scholarships and "Accepting the Challenge of Excellence" awards and honored students as Youths of the Month and a Youth of the Year; and,

WHEREAS, the Exchange Club is an integral part of the collective memory, civic service and social fabric of the City of Isle of Palms, its first President being Frank J. Sottile, a charter member being J.C. Long, and its current President being Patrick Harrington.

So, NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Mayor and City Council do hereby recognize and appreciate the value that the Exchange Club adds to the life of citizens of the Isle of Palms and is grateful for their contributions, knowing that the Club will continue to enrich island life for many years to come.



Dick Cronin
Dick Cronin, Mayor

Barbara Bergwerf
Ryan Buckhannon
Michael Loftus
Doug Thomas

J. Martin Bettelli
Jimmy Carroll
Sandy Stone
Jimmy Ward