



A PROCLAMATION

DECLARING AUGUST 16, 2018 AS MIRLO COMMEMORATION DAY & AUGUST 13 THROUGH 17, 2018 AS MIRLO COMMEMORATION WEEK

WHEREAS, the Coast of NC was the scene of a little known theater of Submarine Warfare during WWI; and

WHEREAS, on Aug 16 1918 German U-boat 117 torpedoed the Mirlo, a British Tanker fully loaded with fuel so desperately needed by our allies in England; and

WHEREAS, the explosion, 7 miles off the coast of Rodanthe, was noticed by Surfman Leroy Midgett who was on watch in the tower of the Chicamacomico Coast Guard Station; and

WHEREAS, Keeper John Allen Midgett, Jr immediately called his crew to action and, in spite of 15 foot seas and the lingering threat of U-boat activity, launched Surfboat 1046 into the sea; and

WHEREAS, in an ocean aflame with fuel, "Captain Johnny" and his surfmen rescued 42 of 51 British seamen and got them safely ashore; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of that daring rescue, John Allen and his crew were awarded the Gold Life Saving Medal as well as the Grand Cross of the American Cross of honor; and

WHEREAS, so impressed by this selfless effort King George VI had struck Gold Medals for John Allen and all of his crew; and

WHEREAS, equally impressed the British Board of Trade honored John Allen with a Silver Loving Cup; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his lifetime of service to the USCG, John Allen has had 2 USCG Cutters named in his honor including the recently Christened National Security Cutter "John Allen Midgett, Jr"; and

WHEREAS, as we reflect upon a World War of 100 years ago, we note that August 16, 2018 is the 100th Anniversary of this rescue; and

WHEREAS, events such as the Mirlo rescue highlight what we all know about the rich history of our islands and honors the men and women who have braved the hardships of life on the Outer Banks for generations and risked their personal safety to keep countless ships safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dare County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims August 16, 2018 as Mirlo Commemoration Day and August 13 through 17, 2018 as Mirlo Commemoration Week in Dare County. This the 19th day of March, 2018.



Attest:

Robert Woodard, Chairman

Gary Lee Gross, Clerk to the Board