

**Resolution of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council commending
Billy Causey on the occasion of his retirement
April 16, 2019, adopted**

Whereas, in January 2019 Dr. Billy Causey retired from overseeing the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) since its inception, and

Whereas, the FKNMS was established in 1990, and

Whereas, the legislation creating the FKNMS found that adjacent to the Florida Keys land mass are located spectacular, unique, and nationally significant marine environments, including seagrass meadows, mangrove islands, and extensive living coral reefs, and

Whereas, these natural resources are the marine equivalent of tropical rain forests in that they support high levels of biological diversity, are fragile and easily susceptible to damage from human activities, and possess high value to human beings if properly conserved, and

Whereas, Billy dedicated years of service to sanctuaries - eight years as a State of Florida employee and manager of Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary, followed by 20 years as a NOAA employee serving as the first superintendent of the FKNMS and later as Southeast Regional Director for the Office National Marine Sanctuaries, and

Whereas, Billy shepherded the 2,700-square-nautical-mile FKNMS into existence, then led the extremely complicated and challenging effort to establish its first management plan which included a comprehensive marine zoning system, and

Whereas, as the chief architect of the Tortugas 2000 planning process, Billy applied what he learned in the FKNMS process resulting in resounding support for and creation of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve, more than 200-square-nautical miles of fully protected coral reefs, and

Whereas, Billy helped establish the first comprehensive marine zoning plan for the USA, and

Whereas, as a key player in development of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Billy helped ensure that all stakeholders were at the table and that all elements of South Florida Ecosystem were included, from the headwaters of the Kissimmee River through Florida Bay and the Keys, and

Whereas, Billy played a key role in establishing sister sanctuary-relationships between FKNMS, Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, and marine parks in Cuba and Mexico; and

Whereas, if the FKNMS was a person, there's no doubt that Billy would be its father, now.

Therefore, the FKNMS Advisory Council resolves to express its deep gratitude to Dr. Billy Causey for his service to the FKNMS, its natural resources and resource-dependent stakeholders, and commends him for his dedication to the protection and sustainable use of our precious ocean places here in the Florida Keys and around the world.