

GENERAL AVIATION APPRECIATION MONTH

WHEREAS, Lake Wales in the state of Florida has a significant interest in the continued vitality of general aviation, aircraft manufacturing, aviation educational institutions, aviation organizations, and community airports; and

WHEREAS, general aviation and the Lake Wales Municipal Airport have an immense economic impact on the City of Lake Wales; and

WHEREAS, according to the *2019 Statewide Aviation Economic Impact Study*, general aviation airports in Florida contribute more than \$18.4 billion to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, general aviation not only supports Florida's economy, it improves overall quality of life by supporting emergency medical and healthcare services, law enforcement, fire-fighting and disaster relief, investments in sustainable fuels and technologies, and investments in innovative experimental technology like Vertical Takeoff and Landing vehicles, and by transporting business travelers to their destinations quickly and safely; and

WHEREAS, these aircraft and our network of airports represent a national public benefit, and Congressional oversight should be in place of this system to ensure that it remains a public system and serves communities of all sizes; and

WHEREAS, general aviation has been deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, causing an impact on operations, jobs, and dependent industries, sectors, and communities; and

WHEREAS, general aviation stands to be at the forefront of the overall economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, the United States faces a shortage of aviation professionals, leaders should invest in this critical infrastructure to ensure future economic growth and our next generation of aviation professionals and pilots; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Eugene Fultz, Mayor of the City of Lake Wales, do hereby proclaim general aviation a vital strategic asset to the City of Lake Wales and declare October as

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in the City of Lake Wales.

Mayor