



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park in Key West has a towering canopy of mature Australian Pine trees; and
- WHEREAS, green space is very limited on our island and these pines impart a feeling of spaciousness and are the closest thing we have to a forest area; and
- WHEREAS, the pine forest is drought tolerant, salt tolerant, energy efficient and constitutes the largest green space on the island; and
- WHEREAS, the Australian Pines at Ft. Taylor neither threaten native species nor disrupt established plant communities; and
- WHEREAS, the Australian Pines stand as a refuge from harsh sun and wind while providing shelter and nourishment for a myriad of native and migratory birds, and other creatures; and
- WHEREAS, the Australian Pines are sun filtering shade trees that establish the overall ambiance of the park for both visitors and residents; and
- WHEREAS, attrition and the lack of a plan to replenish lost pines are causing the Australian Pine population to decline; and
- WHEREAS, perpetuating the Australian Pine canopy will ensure that the park's tranquil environment will remain for future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, State of Florida, do hereby proclaim the third Sunday of March, this year being the day of March 15, 2015, as

SAVE OUR PINES DAY

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States". I would like to urge all citizens, residents and visitors of our Southernmost City to participate fittingly in the observation.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 3rd day of March 2015.



Craig Cates, MAYOR