



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

MONTFORD POINT MARINES

WHEREAS, the courage, dedication, self-sacrifice and compassion of the “ordinary heroes” of the World War II generation continue to inspire our nation, especially the men and women who are currently serving around the world protecting our country; and

WHEREAS, the Armed Forces of the United States were segregated in World War II; and

WHEREAS, the United States Marines Corps in 1942 established basic training for African Americans at Montford Point, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, more than 13,000 Montford Point Marines served with honor and distinction in combat overseas, playing critical roles in many Pacific victories, including those at Saipan, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, the late Chester Lee Davis Sr. of Quincy, Florida embodied the spirit of patriotism, selfless service and sacrifice of his fellow Montford Point Marines during the war; and

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2011, the members of the Montford Point Marines received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award from the United States Congress for distinguished contributions;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, on the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, call upon all Floridians to honor those *Montford Point Marines* who answered the call of duty, preserving our freedoms and often making the ultimate sacrifice.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 20th day of January, in the year two thousand seventeen.



Governor