

Oakland County Board of Commissioners

# Proclamation

HONORING

## THE NOBLE ODYSSEY FOUNDATION

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**WHEREAS**, today we join to honor and celebrate the Noble Odyssey Foundation for 50 years of involvement with, and dedication to, stewardship of the Great Lakes; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1962, Congress chartered the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps to teach individuals about the sea-going military services, U.S. naval operations and training, community service, citizenship, discipline and teamwork. In 1972, Captain Luke, started a Great Lakes Division of the sea cadet program in conjunction with the Noble Odyssey Foundation (NOF). The Great Lakes Division is headquartered in White Lake, Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1977, the program acquired a retired Navy YP587 yard ship and named it *The Noble Odyssey*. Shortly afterwards, it began conducting scientific dives that continue today with *The Pride of Michigan*, an 81-foot vessel that replaced *The Noble Odyssey* in 1989. The accommodations on the new ship allowed for co-ed training and young women were then able to participate in its important stewardship work; and

**WHEREAS**, the diving opportunities offered through the program allow cadets to learn unique seagoing, field operations and scuba diving skills specifically geared towards underwater research and especially useful to scientists wanting to explore the Great Lakes. Student divers have studied zebra mussels, lamprey, Gobie fish and drowned forests, and have even searched the mouth of the Clinton River for evidence of European settlements lost to flooding during the 1800s. They have collected valuable data, assisted visiting scientists from universities all over the world with a wide range of important research projects, logged hundreds of hours of dives and cruised nearly 100,000 miles of inland seas; and

**WHEREAS**, Captain Luke Clyburn has served as president of NOF since 2002. Under his leadership and guidance, generations of Michigan cadets have learned about diving, engineering, science, leadership, teamwork and seamanship. The NOF has also produced 12 documentaries over the years, including the 1993 PBS film “Angels of the Sea” about the Emperor shipwreck off the coast of Isle Royale, which won several international awards. With a love of boats and diving since an early age, Captain Clyburn remains committed to conducting research projects that illuminate the fascinating history of the Great Lakes and that carry out the NOF mission to develop knowledge through seagoing education, research projects and hands-on learning; and

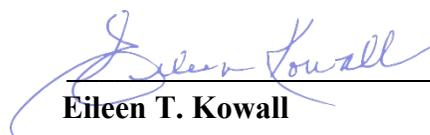
**WHEREAS**, on this milestone anniversary, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners extends our sincere congratulations and gratitude to the NOF for its countless contributions to the lives and education of young cadets, to important scientific research and to the stewardship of our cherished Great Lakes over the past 50 years.

**NOW THEREFORE**, David T. Woodward, Chairman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Eileen T. Kowall and the entire Oakland County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim special commendation to the Noble Odyssey Foundation.

*Attested on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022, in Pontiac, Michigan.*



David T. Woodward, Chairman  
Oakland County Board of Commissioners



Eileen T. Kowall  
Oakland County Commissioner, District #6