

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, James David "Jimmy" Cunningham was born in Clio, Alabama, on January 31, 1938. He was married to his wife, Dorothy Coln Cunningham, for 44 years. Jimmy had two sons, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Jimmy spent the greater part of his life as a farmer and rancher within Escambia County; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy became a member of 4H at the age of nine and a member of FFA at the age of 13. He held officer positions in both 4H and FFA. Jimmy received many awards and recognitions while a member of these organizations. In 1952, he received the Florida Times-Union trophy for his record corn production for the year. In 1953, he was awarded a trip to attend the National 4-H Congress located in Chicago, Illinois. In 1954, he took County and state honors in soil and water conservation. In 1955, he won first place in County, district and state in the 4-H tractor operators contest and represented Florida in the Atlantic States contest in Richmond, Virginia. In 1956, he was selected to be a member of the four-man team livestock judging team to represent Florida at the National Livestock Exposition in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy graduated from Tate High School and later attended the University of Florida. Jimmy worked at Solutia and retired after 43 years of service. In the meantime, Jimmy spent his life as a farmer and rancher and was a co-owner of Cunningham Farms. In 1982, Jimmy was recognized by Escambia County Farm Bureau as Farm Family of the year. At the time, the farming operation was 632 acres of diversified farming of soybeans, wheat, corn, and angus beef cattle under Cunningham Farms which was co-owned by his brother Jacky Cunningham; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy was active with many organizations including over 35 years as a board member and President of the Escambia County Florida Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Through this service, Jimmy attended state meetings with Florida Farm Bureau and was recognized for several years with the President's award. Jimmy was also a founding member of the Gulf Coast Agricultural & Natural Resource Youth Organization also known as GCA-NRYO and the Northwest Florida Cattleman's Association. He was very active in helping youth learn about agriculture and livestock and was also a critical asset in helping 4-H members acquire facilities for a livestock center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Escambia County, Florida, commends and honors James David "Jimmy" Cunningham's life and his time of service to the people of Escambia County.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Robert Bender, Chairman, District Four

Jeff Bergosh, Vice Chairman, District One

Douglas Underhill, District Two

Lumon J. May, District Three

Steven Barry, District Five

ATTEST: Pam Childers
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Deputy Clerk

Adopted: April 8, 2021