



Proclamation

*Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County, Florida*

WHEREAS, *Lee E. Haworth was elected to the court on September 6, 1988, took office in January 1989, and served 26 years as Twelfth Judicial Circuit Judge covering Manatee, Sarasota, and Desoto Counties, serving as Chief Judge from 2007 to 2011; and*

WHEREAS, *Judge Haworth, along with the Clerk of Court Richard “Chips” Shore, devised a document retrieval system called the “Manatee Model” to meet the needs of the judiciary and take advantage of efficient and cost effective electronic technologies and to bring consistency to the judicial interface; and*

WHEREAS, *in December 2008, Judge Haworth established a Circuit-Wide Homestead Conciliation Program to give homeowners a “fair shake,” encouraging loan modifications or short sales — saving the court time and money; and, in 2010, established the Residential Mortgage Mediation Program to encourage communications between Borrowers and Lenders and participation in mediation to resolve commercial residential mortgage related problems; and*

WHEREAS, *in 2000, Judge Haworth was recognized by the Supreme Court and the Governor of the State of Florida for his dedication to abused and neglected children, service to the Guardian Ad Litem Program, and establishment of the Family Safety Alliance, a group dedicated to improvement of the child welfare program; and*

WHEREAS, *Judge Haworth was recognized for his contributions as an original member of the Trial Court Budget Commission; and*

WHEREAS, *Judge Haworth was a 23-year member of the U. S. Army Reserves and, beginning in 1991, served as Lieutenant Colonel as part of an international law team that taught the Geneva Convention to troops; and was Commander of the 199th Judge Advocate General (JAG) Detachment, deployed into Operation Desert Storm to help repatriate about 500 prisoners of war ; and*

WHEREAS, *in 1992, Judge Haworth, coauthored the section of the U.S. Department of Defense report on Iraqi War Crimes in Kuwait for the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff as part of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm; and*

WHEREAS, *Judge Haworth has been presented with the “Chief Justice Award for Judicial Excellence” by the Supreme Court of Florida honoring him for judicial career achievements that included helping children and homeowners.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED *by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that August 25, 2015, shall be known, designated, and set aside as*

JUDGE LEE E. HAWORTH DAY

in Manatee County, Florida, and extends wishes of prosperity, good health, and happiness to Judge Haworth during his retirement years. His influence and contributions remain alive in our hearts and will impact each of us as we journey to the future.

ADOPTED *with a quorum present and voting this 25th day of August 2015.*

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Betsy Benac, Chairman

ATTEST: *Angelina M. Colonnese
Clerk Ad Interim of the Circuit Court*
