**PROCLAMATION**

**DECEMBER 7, 2023 as PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE and DICK HIGGINS DAY**

WHEREAS, December 7, 2023 marks the 82nd anniversary of the premediated attack by Japanese Navy forces on Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii, propelling the United State into WWII, and

WHEREAS, 102 year old Dick Higgins, the only Pearl Harbor Survivor now living in Bend was born in Oklahoma on July 24, 1921 and entered service with the U.S. Navy in 1939 training as a radioman, and

WHEREAS, Dick Higgins was assigned to VP - 22 Squadron as a Catalina PBY-5A amphibious aircraft radioman at the time of the December 7, 1941 attack, and

WHEREAS, immediately after the attack, Dick Higgins helped salvage PBY-5A aircraft so that some would quickly become operational, and

WHEREAS, Dick Higgins served as a PBY-5A crewmember for the remainder of WWII leaving service as a Chief Petty Officer with numerous decorations and awards, and

WHEREAS, after the passing of Winnie Ruth Higgins his wife of 60 years, Dick Higgins relocated to Bend to be near his daughter Vicki Bolling and live with granddaughter Angela Norton’s family, and

WHEREAS, Dick Higgins visits the Erickson Aircraft Collection in Madras, Oregon during annual airshows educating the public on the Pearl Harbor attack and the gift of freedom while seated next to the museum’s PBY-5A, and

WHEREAS, “Gramps” Dick Higgins and family members have attended 7 Pearl Harbor reunions at Pearl Harbor during 1991-2021 keeping his promise to never forget his comrades who perished on December 7, 1941, and

WHEREAS, Bend Heroes Foundation has honored Dick Higgins with a 4 day Honor Flight trip to our nation’s capital and several Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ceremonies at Bend Heroes Memorial, and

WHEREAS, Dick Higgins will be honored at a special Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day student and veterans assembly at Bend Senior High School on December 7, 2023.

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Bend, Oregon hereby proclaims December 7, 2023 as Pearl Harbor Remembrance and Dick Higgins Day. The City Council encourages the citizens of Bend to honor those Americans who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor by flying American flags at half-staff on December 7, 2023.

Dated this \_\_\_ day of December by the City Council of Bend.

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Melanie Kebler, Mayor

ATTEST

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Robyn Christie, City Recorder

Drafted by Dick Tobiason 11-22-23