

THE VILLAGE OF ESTERO *PROCLAMATION*

WHEREAS, On average 564 people die each year in boating related accidents in the United States; 75% of deaths were caused by drowning; and in 87% of those fatalities, the victim was not wearing a life jacket; and;

WHEREAS, the vast majority of these accidents are caused by human error or poor judgement and not by the boat or equipment; and;

WHEREAS, a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets; and;

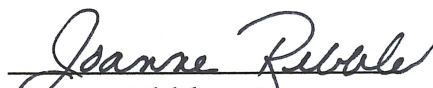
WHEREAS, Flotilla 96 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is tasked with supporting the active-duty United States Coast Guard by promoting Recreational Boating Safety in Bonita Springs, and;

WHEREAS, Flotilla 96 plans to offer boating safety classes, vessel safety checks and other ambitious boating safety awareness programs during the week of May 16-22, 2026; and;

WHEREAS, the residents and the Village of Estero Council wish to recognize Flotilla 96 of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary for their honorable service.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Joanne Ribble, of the Village of Estero, Lee County, Florida, do hereby support the goals of the Safe Boating Campaign and proclaim May 16-22 as "National Safe Boating Week" to urge all those who boat to practice safe boating habits and wear a life jacket at all times while navigating the waterways of southwest Florida.

IN WITNESS THEREFORE, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Village of Estero to be affixed, this 15th day of April 2026.


Joanne Ribble, Mayor

