

TOWN OF FRANKLINTON

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PROCLAMATION COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

WHEREAS, on July 28, 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war on the Kingdom of Serbia resulting in a majority of the world's industrialized nations being drawn into a major conflict that would come to be known as World War I, or the Great War; and

WHEREAS, in the days leading to the declarations of war, Pope Pius X interceded directly with Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary in an attempt to maintain peace in Christian Europe; and

WHEREAS, in November 1914, the recently elected Pope Benedict XV in his first encyclical, *Ad Beatissimi Apostolorum*, "implored Kings and rulers to consider the floods of tears and of blood already poured out, and to hasten to restore to the nations the blessings of peace"; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 1917, the United States ended its policy of neutrality and declared war on the German Empire; and

WHEREAS, at the 37th Supreme Convention held in Buffalo, New York, in 1919, the Supreme Council celebrated both the end of the Great War and the close relationship between the United States and France by approving the gift of a statue to the City of Metz commemorating the "glorious dead of the American and French armies" and by welcoming the French High Commissioner Marcel Knecht.

NOW THEREFORE, I ART WRIGHT, MAYOR OF FRANKLINTON NORTH CAROLINA PROCLAIM, that as we recall the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, we remember the more than 20 million killed and 21 million wounded in the conflict, the total equivalent of one out of every 46 people alive at that time in history; and

I FURTHER PROCLAIM, that we reflect on the lessons of that terrible conflict and of the failed peace agreements brokered at its closure that laid the groundwork for World War II as well as other conflicts and political strife of the past century; and

I FURTHER PROCLAIM, that we reiterate the call of Pope Benedict XV, who reminded us that the "equilibrium of the world, and the prosperity and assured tranquility of nations rest upon mutual benevolence and respect for the rights and the

dignity of others much more than upon hosts of armed men and the ring of formidable fortresses.”

PROCLAIMED THIS THE 7th day of November, 2018.

Mayor of the Town of Franklinton



Mayor Art Wright

Kim Worley, Town Clerk