Proclamation

Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County, Florida

WHEREAS, the Friends and Foundation of Manatee County Libraries play a vital role in supporting library services that improve the quality of life in our communities, providing opportunities for all to engage in the joy of lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, the Friends and Foundation understand the critical importance of well-funded libraries and advocate to ensure our libraries receive the resources needed to provide a wide variety of services to all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Friends and Foundation raise funds enabling our libraries to move from good to great – promoting the benefits of information literacy, providing resources for additional programming and much-needed equipment, and special events throughout the year, and

WHEREAS, the Friends' and Foundation's gifts of time and commitment to the Manatee County Public Library System set an example of how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that October 18-24, 2026, shall be known, designated, and set aside as

NATIONAL FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES WEEK

in Manatee County, Florida.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Tal Siddique

Tal Siddique, Chairperson

October 20, 2026 -Regular Meeting

Subject
National Friends of Libraries Week

Category
AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Briefings
None

Contact and/or Presenter Information
Board of County Commissioners

Action Requested
Adoption of Proclamation designating October 18-24, 2026, as “National Friends of Libraries Week.”

Enabling/Regulating Authority
None

Background Discussion
The Library Foundation provides advocacy and funding for system-wide improvement and resources. The seven Friends organizations (one for each library) provide advocacy and funding for their branch needs. On average, the Foundation provides $120,000 per year and each Friends group a range of $20,000 - $40,000 per year to support our public library system.

Attorney Review
Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records
None

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name
N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs
N/A