



TOWN OF MELBOURNE VILLAGE

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PROCLAMATION

Whereas, on July 24, 1950, at 9:28a.m., a small group of scientists, engineers, and technicians accelerated America into the space age by successfully launching a modified V-2 rocket, Bumper 8, from the sands of Cape Canaveral; and

Whereas, today, 75 years after that historic event, thousands of launches have been conducted by military, NASA, and private contractors for national security, or scientific or commercial purposes; and

Whereas, the missile program led to the deployment of such missions as America's first satellite, *Explorer 1*, orbiting the Earth in 1958, Alan Shepard riding the first manned Mercury capsule in 1961, John Glenn orbiting the Earth in 1962, and Apollo 11 landing on the moon in 1969. Further ventures include probes traveling to other planets and journeying outside of our solar system, the Space Shuttle and an overwhelmingly successful manned space program, and a permanent human presence in space aboard the International Space Station; and

Whereas, many of these launches began their journey from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station; and

Whereas, the use of space has had an immense impact on the world, from wireless capabilities to weather prediction, from medical advancements to global navigation, and beyond; and

Whereas, currently, inactive launch complexes are being rejuvenated for a new generation of launch vehicles to support space exploration and the increased commercial application of space; and

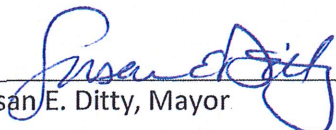
Whereas, the launch of Bumper 8 had national implications as it set the stage for the development of the World's Premier Gateway to Space;

Now, Therefore, the Town of Melbourne Village do hereby declare July 24, 2025, to be

Space Coast Day

and urge all residents to observe this day in honor of the first launch from Cape Canaveral. Space discoveries are the result of many episodes, many people, many days of inspiration, frustration, and elation, resulting from the dreams, visions, and foresight, and personal contributions from many walks of life. All this began with one launch on July 24, 1950, at Cape Canaveral.

Presented this 28th day of January 2025



Susan E. Ditty, Mayor

