

**❧❧ P R O C L A M A T I O N ❧❧**

*WHEREAS*, September 23-27, 2009, celebrates the anniversary of the AC-119 G/K Gunship that was built by Fairchild-Hiller Corporation at the St. Augustine plant in 1968-1969; and

*WHEREAS*, there were a total of 52 aircraft built, 26 AC-119G's (Shadows) and 26 AC-119K's (Stingers), and at the apex of the program, the company employed over 1,500 employees; and

*WHEREAS*, Construction of the aircraft represented a tremendous boost to the local economy with the \$100 million dollar program, and many of those employees remained in the area and were eventually hired by Northrop Grumman when the corporation located in St. Augustine; and

*WHEREAS*, after further crew and maintenance training the *Shadows* and the *Stingers* were deployed to Viet Nam and other Southeast area Bases; and

*WHEREAS*, the aircraft were flown in combat in Viet Nam by the 71<sup>st</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadrons until the peace treaty was signed in 1973; and

*WHEREAS*, the aircraft achieved a remarkable record with the several flight crews receiving Presidential citations and other honors while in combat; and

*WHEREAS*, many of those who served in building the AC-119 G/K Gunship will be in attendance to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the great aircraft that they help build.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the City Commission of St. Augustine does hereby proclaim September 23-27, 2009, as a time to celebrate the AC-119 Gunship Reunion X.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of St. Augustine to be affixed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand nine and the four hundred and forty-fourth year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.

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Joseph L. Boles Jr., Mayor