



**IN HONOR OF JOHN PEERY**

**WHEREAS**, John Peery was born in Halls, Tennessee on May 28, 1956; and

**WHEREAS**, his family moved to Apopka, Florida when he was five years old; and

**WHEREAS**, John graduated from Apopka Memorial High School in 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, his father, James C. Peery, served as principal at Lovell Elementary School in Apopka and his mother Mary Ann Peery was an educator; and

**WHEREAS**, he attended the University of Tennessee prior to graduating from the University of Central Florida in 1978; and

**WHEREAS**, John climbed the ladder to become editor of *The Apopka Chief* and *The Planter* newspapers, worked at both publications for more than 40 years prior to his retirement in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, he worked tirelessly to cover the many positive aspects of Orange County Public Schools in the Apopka area for decades; and

**WHEREAS**, John covered Apopka Blue Darter football games since the late 1970s and was considered the definitive expert on high school football in Central Florida, particularly at Apopka High; and

**WHEREAS**, he also covered all three Apopka High football state championships in 2001, 2012 and 2014 as well as the high school's baseball, basketball and other sports teams; and

**WHEREAS**, when Wekiva High opened in 2007, John ensured the school received extensive and equitable coverage for both its academic and athletic programs; and

**WHEREAS**, he also oversaw the of the newspaper's "Chief Junior" section, which provides OCPS schools in the Apopka area with a chance to promote the academic activities and events that are happening throughout the year with stories and pictures; and

**WHEREAS**, in his role as The Apopka Chief's editor, John's support for OCPS continued by providing School Board District 7 members with an opportunity to publish weekly columns so the Apopka community could obtain information on what was occurring in their school district; and

**WHEREAS**, generations of students, teachers, support personnel and administrators at all Apopka-area schools were positively touched by John Peery; and

**WHEREAS**, the entire Apopka and OCPS communities are mourning the loss of John Peery, who passed away on October 12, 2023;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the School Board of Orange County, Florida does hereby acknowledge and declare that John Peery will remain a much-loved champion of education and resident of School Board District 7 who touched many lives, and left a legacy of love and faithfulness that will continue for generations to come.

**ADOPTED** by the School Board of Orange County, Florida, in Orlando, Florida, this 9th day of November, 2023.

  
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Melissa Byrd  
School Board Member, District 7