

**Presented to  
Peyton Robertson  
America's 2013 Top Young Scientist**

- WHEREAS,** Peyton Robertson is a sixth grader who lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and
- WHEREAS,** in October 2013, Peyton was named America's 2013 Top Young Scientist after winning the Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge. He beat nine other finalists, and won a \$25,000 prize, and a trip to Costa Rica; and
- WHEREAS,** Peyton's invention was a simple but potentially important 'sand-less operational sandbag' (SOS) for use in flood defense. He came up with the sand-less sandbag idea after seeing the damage wrought by Hurricane Sandy; and
- WHEREAS,** Peyton's sandbags, unlike standard sandbags, involve no sand. His sandbags are simple burlap sacks which contain a mixture of salt and polymer (a synthetic, expandable plastic) and weigh only 4 pounds each to transport, compared to conventional sandbags which must be filled with sand and then transported and weigh about 40 pounds each; and
- WHEREAS,** once transported to the storm site, the sand-less sandbags can be stacked and soaked which increases the weight of the bags to over 30lbs. Once the storm is over, the bags can be reused after the water evaporates and they return to their 4 pound weight; and
- WHEREAS,** sand-less sandbags are not the only thing Peyton has invented. He invented retractable training wheels for his twin sisters' bikes, and in 2011, Peyton won the Kids Science Challenge, a National Science Foundation competition, for his invention of a golf ball warmer which preserves the ball's temperature in cold weather; and
- WHEREAS,** the Mayor and City Commissioners are delighted and proud to issue this proclamation to **Peyton Robertson**, and do congratulate him on being named America's 2013 Top Young Scientist.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE,** as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim **January 7, 2014 as:**

**Peyton Robertson Day  
America's 2013 Top Young Scientist**

in the City of Fort Lauderdale and do encourage all citizens to join with us in commending Peyton for a job well done, and for bringing such positive worldwide publicity to the city of Fort Lauderdale.

**DATED this,** the 7<sup>th</sup> day of January 2014.

**Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler**

