

Presented to
Cardinal Gibbons High School Wrestling Team
2014 State Champions

WHEREAS, Fort Lauderdale's Cardinal Gibbons High School was founded on September 5, 1961 and has provided excellence in education for more than 50 years through a challenging college preparatory curriculum that fosters the spiritual, intellectual, cultural and physical development of its students; and

WHEREAS, Over the past five decades, Cardinal Gibbons has established a proud tradition of academic achievement along with a nationally recognized athletic program that has won team state championships in boys' and girls' volleyball and boys' and girls' tennis, along with wrestling, baseball, and competitive cheerleading; and

WHEREAS, On February 15, 2014, Cardinal Gibbons added another accolade to its storied athletic dominance when the Chiefs Wrestling Team captured the Class 1A State Championship at the finals in Lakeland, Florida defeating the defending champion, Lake Highland Prep of Orlando, by a score of 165.5 to 149; and

WHEREAS, Under Head Coach Frank Pettineo, the Chiefs took a commanding 17.5-point lead and headed into the finals with five wrestlers having a chance to win gold; and

WHEREAS, The team's outstanding performance was highlighted by three wrestlers who captured individual state titles and, in doing so, helped secure the team's championship victory by an impressive 16.5 points: Anthony Vazquez pulled off a 4-3 win in the final seconds of his match at 126 pounds; Jamel Morris earned a state title with a 10-4 victory at 132 pounds; and Ryan Thomas scored a 2-1 victory at 195 pounds to become Cardinal Gibbons' third individual champion; and

WHEREAS, The win marked the fifth State Title for the Chief's Wrestling Team adding to championships in 2002, 2003, 2005 and 2011. With the victory, Cardinal Gibbons joined elite company becoming only the fifth high school in Florida's history to attain at least five team championships in wrestling, and became the most decorated wrestling team in Broward County, breaking the previous record of four state titles which it had shared with McArthur High School; and

WHEREAS, The City of Fort Lauderdale is proud to honor the Cardinal Gibbons 2014 State Champion Wrestling Team: Anthony Botta, Kennedy Monday, Sonny Picasio, Dominick Gibson, Anthony Vazquez, Jamel Morris, Jamal Morris, Alex Lopouchanski, Nick Delvecchio, Julian Georgesu, Antonio Sannasardo, Diego Bell, Austin Nelson, Ryan Thomas, Mathew Knick, Nick Palmer, and Rodney Thomas; Head Coach Frank Pettineo; Assistant Coaches Mike Turner and J.P. Reese; Athletic Director Mike Morrill; and School Principal Paul Ott.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 18th, 2014 as:

Cardinal Gibbons High School Wrestling Team Day

in the City of Fort Lauderdale and encourage all citizens to join with us in congratulating the team on this historic and prestigious Championship. Go Chiefs!

DATED this, the 18th day of March 2014.

Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler

