The Largo Historical Society and the Heisler-Johnson American Legion Post 119 will be sending representatives to the Alsace province in France in late September to attend a centennial ceremony commemorating the end of World War I. The ceremony will honor each of the 48 American Soldiers who gave their lives in the local campaign to defeat the Germans.

Two of the boys who enlisted to serve our Nation during World War I were students at Largo High School: Worth Edward Johnson and Ralph Edward Heisler. Both of these young men died of their wounds while engaged in battle. Worth Johnson’s body was returned to Largo and is buried in the Largo Cemetery. Ralph Heisler is buried in Paris, France.

Mr. Charlie Harper and Mrs. Marilyn Short from the Largo Historical Society will accept the proclamations to present at the ceremony to be held in late September in Alsace province in France.

**PROCLAMATIONS IN MEMORY OF WORTH EDWARD JOHNSON AND RALPH EDWARD HEISLER**

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**Presenter:** Diane Bruner, City Clerk

**Department:** AD – Administration

**TITLE:**

**PROCLAMATIONS IN MEMORY OF WORTH EDWARD JOHNSON AND RALPH EDWARD HEISLER**

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**Budgeted Amount:** $0.00

**Budget Page No(s.):** NA

**Available Amount:** $0.00

**Expenditure Amount:** $0.00

**Additional Budgetary Information:** Not applicable

**Funding Source(s):** NA

**Sufficient Funds Available:** { ○ Yes ⊗ No}

**Budget Amendment Required:** { ⊗ Yes ○ No}

**Advisory Board Recommendation:** { ○ For ○ Against}

**Consistent With:** { ○ Yes ○ No ⊗ N/A}

**City Attorney Reviewed:** { ○ Yes ⊗ No ⊗ N/A}

**Potential Motion/Direction Requested:** N/A

**Staff Contact:** Shirley Frick

**x6702**

**sfrick@largo.com**

**Attachments:** Proclamations
WHEREAS, World War I lasted from July 28, 1914, to November 11, 1918, and mobilized more than 70 million military personnel; and

WHEREAS, over nine million military personnel and seven million civilians died as a result of the war that is known as the War To End All Wars; and

WHEREAS, on April 12, 1917, Worth Edward Johnson, a young, 15-year-old Largo High School student, enlisted in the United States Army, where he was assigned to the 6th Division, 12th Brigade, 54th Infantry Regiment as a company bugler; and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 1918, the 6th Division arrived in the Alsace province to assist the French in defeating Germany, which resulted in France regaining the Alsace-Lorraine territory that had been lost to Germany 47 years previously; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 1918, exactly two months after arriving in Alsace, Worth Edward Johnson was severely wounded by enemy artillery fire and, at the age of 17, died of his wounds on October 9, 1918; and

WHEREAS, Worth Edward Johnson’s remains were returned to the United States on May 18, 1921, aboard the US Army transport ship Wheaton, and he was buried in the Johnson family plot at the Largo Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the Franco-American Military Cemetery where Worth Edward Johnson and 48 other American soldiers and 63 French soldiers were initially buried, and a monument erected in their honor, were destroyed by Nazi forces when they invaded in June of 1940 during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hubert Martin, a member of the Alsace-United States Friendship Association, has been working with the United States Consulate in Strasbourg and the United States Embassy in Paris on a commemorative ceremony in September, 2018, to honor the memory of the 49 courageous American soldiers, including Largo’s own Worth Edward Johnson, who died fighting with their French allies 100 years ago during World War I; and

WHEREAS, the commemorative ceremony will include the inauguration of a rebuilt monument in place of the original monument that was destroyed in 1940.

WHEREAS, members of the Largo Area Historical Society and members of the Heisler-Johnson American Legion Post #119, will attend the September centennial celebration, which will be held in village of Linthal, near the Franco-American Military Cemetery where Worth Edward Johnson was initially buried.

NOW, therefore, I, WOODY BROWN, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LARGO, FLORIDA, and on behalf of the City Commission and the citizens of the City of Largo, Florida, pay tribute to the memory, dedication and bravery of

WORTH EDWARD JOHNSON

and the other 48 American soldiers who gave their lives in the Alsace province during World War I and who will be celebrated at the centennial celebration for making the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of their country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the city of Largo, Florida, to be affixed this 21st day of August, 2018.

[Signature]
MAYOR

[Signature]
ATTEST: [Name]
CITY CLERK
WHEREAS, World War I was a global war originating in Europe; and

WHEREAS, On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany and entered World War I, which lasted from July 28, 1914 to November 11, 1918 and mobilized over 70 million military personnel; and

WHEREAS, over nine million military personnel and seven million civilians died as a result of the war that is known as the War To End All Wars; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 1918, a young 21-year old from Largo, Florida, Ralph Edward Heisler, joined the Army and was assigned to the famous 42nd Rainbow Division as a machine gunner; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 1918, Ralph Heisler boarded the Kinfrauns Castle, a transport vessel bound for France as part of the American Expeditionary Forces; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 1918, just one month after arriving in France, Ralph Edward Heisler was killed while manning his machine gun post during the battle of Chateau-Thierry; and

WHEREAS, Heisler is buried at the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery at Seringes-et-Nesles; and

WHEREAS, members of the Heisler-Johnson American Legion Post #119, will visit the grave site where Ralph Heisler is buried to pay their respect and honor his memory on the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I;

NOW, therefore, I, WOODY BROWN, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LARGO, FLORIDA, and on behalf of the City Commission and the citizens of the City of Largo, Florida, pay tribute to the memory, dedication and bravery of

RALPH EDWARD HEISLER

and all the courageous young soldiers buried at the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery who will be honored and remembered during this centennial anniversary of the end of World War I for making the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of their country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Largo, Florida, to be affixed this 21st day of August, 2018.

[Signature]
MAYOR

ATTEST: [Signature]
CITY CLERK