

# PROCLAMATION

## Encouraging Fort Bragg Read Aloud Program

**"New Moon in June" Event June 3 - 17, 2019**

**WHEREAS**, one in three children are not prepared for kindergarten and two thirds of U.S. third graders lack competent reading skills and will be four times more likely to drop out of school; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that taking only 15 minutes every day to read aloud to a child from birth to age six has a positive effect on their brain development, vocabulary, knowledge, creativity and overall love of learning; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that parents begin reading aloud to babies from birth; and

**WHEREAS**, children who are not read to at home, have a "million word gap" when they enter kindergarten; and

**WHEREAS**, with only half of all young children being read books at home, in 2013 the "Read Aloud 15 Minutes" campaign was launched with the goal of reaching 250 million Americans and changing the face of education; and

**WHEREAS**, with the Rotary Club of Fort Bragg leading the local Read Aloud 15 Minutes Program for the past five years with many area organizations joining together to make Read Aloud an integral part of our children's lives including: The Mendocino County Library, Fort Bragg Branch, Safe Passage Family Resource Center, Project Sanctuary, First 5 Mendocino, Delta Kappa Gamma, Mendocino Study Club, League of Women Voters, Head Start Child Development Program, Mendocino Coast Clinics Pediatrics Services, Mendocino Coast Children's Fund, Adventist Health Fort Bragg, WIC, American Legion Auxiliary Post 96, Fort Bragg Unified School District Kindergarten Classes, Fort Bragg Pre-Schools and C.V. Starr Community Center; and

**WHEREAS**, these organizations now join together to encourage every local parent to take the pledge to read aloud every day to every young child for 15 days from the New Moon to the Full Moon, June 3rd to June 17th.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, William V. Lee**, Mayor of the City of Fort Bragg, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby applaud the Fort Bragg Read Aloud 15 Minutes Program and the participating organizations and encourage all parents to read aloud to every young child every day.

**SIGNED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.**

**William V. Lee, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

**June Lemos, CMC, City Clerk**

No. 09- 2017

