

Escambia County, Florida

DESIGNATING JULY 30, 2022,

AS "NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY"

Whereas, in 1777, before the passage of the Bill of Rights, 10 Navy sailors and Marines blew the whistle on misconduct committed by their ship's commander who retaliated against them for going to Congress

Whereas, the Founding Fathers unanimously supported the whistleblowers in words and deeds, including by releasing government records and providing monetary assistance for the reasonable legal expenses necessary to prevent further retaliation against the whistleblowers.

Whereas, on July 30, 1778, in demonstration of their full support for whistleblowers, the members of the Continental Congress unanimously passed the first whistleblower legislation in the United States that read: "Resolved, That it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other the inhabitants thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any officers or persons in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge."

Whereas, whistleblowers risk their careers, jobs, and reputations by reporting waste, fraud, and abuse to the proper authorities; Whistleblowers of America located in Pensacola, Florida provides peer support and a trauma informed perspective because of the psychosocial harm caused by retaliation. The Workplace Promise Institute annual conference, September 7-9, 2022, will train whistleblower advocates.

Whereas, in providing the proper authorities with lawful disclosures, whistleblowers save the taxpayers of the United States billions of dollars each year and serve the public interest by ensuring that the United States remains an ethical and safe place; and

Whereas, it is the public policy of Escambia County s to encourage, in accordance with all law, rules, and regulations and consistent with the protection of classified information (including sources and methods of detection of classified information), honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, and other crimes to the appropriate authority at the earliest time possible:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Escambia County--

(1) designates July 30, 2022, as "National Whistleblower Appreciation Day"; and

(2) ensures that the County Government implements the intent of the Founding Fathers, as reflected in the legislation passed on July 30, 1778 (relating to whistleblowers), by encouraging each executive agency to recognize National Whistleblower Appreciation Day by--

(A) informing employees, contractors working on behalf of the taxpayers and members of the public about the legal right of the people to "blow the whistle" to the appropriate authority by honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, or other crimes; and

(B) acknowledging the contributions of whistleblowers to combating waste, fraud, abuse, and violations of laws and regulations of the United States and the County of Escambia, Florida.