PROCLAMATION General Aviation Appreciation Month 2016

WHEREAS, Lake Wales in the state of Florida has a significant interest in the continued vitality of general aviation, aircraft manufacturing, aviation educational institutions, aviation organizations and community airports; and

WHEREAS, general aviation and the Lake Wales Municipal Airport have an immense economic impact on the City of Lake Wales; and

WHEREAS, more than half (50.5%) of Florida's visitors arrive each year by air; and

WHEREAS, Florida's general aviation/community airports accommodate more than 9 million visitors and business travelers annually and are home to more than 6% of the nation's entire general aviation fleet; and

WHEREAS, more than 8.5% of Florida Gross State Product results from businesses dependent upon aviation and numerous leading aviation companies have headquarters or a major presence in Florida; and

WHEREAS, general aviation not only supports Florida's economy, it improves overall quality of life by supporting emergency medical and healthcare services, law enforcement, firefighting and disaster relief, and by transporting business travelers to their destinations quickly and safely; and

WHEREAS, the nation's aviation infrastructure represents an important public benefit, and Congressional oversight should be in place to ensure stable funding of this system;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Eugene Fultz, Mayor of the City of Lake Wales, do hereby proclaim general aviation a vital strategic resource to the City of Lake Wales and declare April as

GENERAL AVIATION APPRECIATION MONTH

in Lake Wales, and encourage all citizens to observe this special day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Lake Wales, Florida to be affixed this 29 Day of Much 2016.

Eugene Fultz, Mayor