



WHEREAS, Tara Jacobs Brown, a Long Island native and 1995 graduate of Deltona High School, served honorably in the U.S. Air Force for 15 years; and

WHEREAS, she rose rapidly through the ranks to the position of Master Sergeant and completed tours in Japan, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Tara served her country with courage, pride and joy, and she was taken from us far too soon at the young age of 33; and

WHEREAS, she was part of a team from the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing that was training Afghans on computer use when she was killed along with eight other brave Americans on April 27, 2011; and

WHEREAS, in addition to a Purple Heart and Bronze Star, Tara received a Meritorious Service Medal, a Joint Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak-leaf clusters, the Air Force Achievement Medal with three oak-leaf clusters, the Air Force Combat Action Medal, and the NATO Medal; and

WHEREAS, after her death, Tara became the first female and first African-American to be inducted into the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Hall of Heroes; and

WHEREAS, Tara is survived by her husband, Army Staff Sgt. Ernest Brown; her parents, Jim Jacobs and Gladys Vereen; brothers Jim, Dominic and Michael Jacobs; sister Laguanda Jacobs; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends; **NOW THEREFORE**,

WE, THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, do hereby proclaim July 21, 2014, as:

“TARA JACOBS BROWN DAY”

in Volusia County and encourage all residents to honor this outstanding woman for her sacrifice and celebrate her today, which would have been her 36th birthday.

Dated this 21st day of July, A.D. 2014