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**Mayor Donald O. Burnette Honored with
2021 Home Rule Hero Award**

Mayor recognized for advocacy efforts during the 2021 Legislative Session

Port Orange, FL – The Florida League of Cities, the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments, recently recognized Port Orange Mayor Donald Burnette with a 2021 Home Rule Hero Award for his hard work and advocacy efforts during the 2021 Legislative Session.

“These local officials went above and beyond during the 2021 Legislative Session,” said FLC Director of Legislative Affairs Casey Cook. *“They made an extraordinary effort, were actively engaged and highly effective in their advocacy efforts. Even with all the various challenges present this year due to the pandemic, they stepped up. They engaged with legislators, shared their stories and made their voices heard, and it made a difference. On behalf of the League and its legislative team, it’s my sincere honor to recognize this year’s award recipients and thank them for their service.”*

Home Rule is the ability for a city to address local problems with local solutions with minimal state interference. Home Rule Hero Award recipients are local government officials, both elected and nonelected, who consistently responded to the League’s request to reach out to members of the legislature and help give a local perspective on an issue.

“I am honored and humbled to be recognized by the Florida League of Cities as a Home Rule Hero,” said City of Port Orange Mayor, Don Burnette. *“Protecting Home Rule is one of the most important things that I can do as Mayor to support our Port Orange residents by ensuring their voices are heard in handling local issues and making local decisions.”*

With dedicated community involvement, Burnette was first elected to serve District 2 on the Port Orange City Council in 2010 before serving as Vice Mayor for 2 years and being elected Mayor of the city in 2016 on top of his day job as a Senior Loan Officer. He graduated from Spruce Creek in 1985 and earned his Bachelor’s and Masters of Business Administration from UCF. A lifelong resident of the area, he and his wife Anita have 2 boys, Matthew and Patrick. Mayor Burnette will be serving as Mayor until his term ends in 2024.

About Florida League of Cities:

Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida’s cities, which are formed and governed by their citizens. The League believes in “Local Voices Making Local Choices,” which focuses on the impact citizens and city leaders have in improving Florida’s communities. For more information, visit flcities.com.

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