

**CITY OF NIXA
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
STATE OF MISSOURI**

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, By partnering with more than 40 leading conservation organizations, Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium (WOW) is becoming one of the most valuable and respected conservation and education centers in the world; and

WHEREAS, Through partnerships with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, and Turtles Fly Too, WOW has provided critical care for 30 loggerhead sea turtles before releasing them back into the wild; and

WHEREAS, WOW opened its doors, and waters, to a third group of loggerhead sea turtles facing life-threatening conditions; and

WHEREAS, 10 cold-stunned turtles arrived January 2nd to WOW where they were met by an expert animal care team and transported to the Aquarium's Sea Turtle Center; and

WHEREAS, loggerhead sea turtles are cold-blooded reptiles that depend on their surroundings to maintain body temperatures. A dramatic temperature change causes them to suffer from a form of hypothermia called cold stunning. Cold stunning is fatal if the turtles are not rescued; and

WHEREAS, due to their size, loggerheads are harder to place, and WOW is one of the few facilities that has enough space to care for them. WOW's Life Sciences and Veterinary teams immediately began their work by developing care and treatment plans that are customized for each turtle; and

WHEREAS, to thank the community for its support of Wonders of Wildlife and its conservation initiatives each of the turtles have been named after local cities and towns. One of the turtles is named Nixa; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brian Steele, Mayor of the City of Nixa, Missouri, do hereby commend Wonders of Wildlife for all their conservation efforts and wish Nixa and all their turtle friends a speedy recovery.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Nixa, this 13th day of February, 2023.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk