PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, each year, more Americans will experience brain injury than HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injury combined. Despite incidence rates, brain injury remains largely unseen by the American population and is frequently referred to as the ‘silent epidemic’; and

WHEREAS, many people recover from their injuries, but each year an estimated 26,000 people in the State of Washington sustain a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) resulting in a permanent disability; and

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injury costs our nation a staggering $56.3 billion a year; and

WHEREAS, prevention is the only known cure; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) is to create a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, in order to carry out this mission, the BIAA provides information on topics such as bike safety, falls, sports and recreation, violence, and transportation safety, and recommendations on how to prevent injuries from occurring and participates in national coalitions with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Defense Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program (DBSCIP), and the Brain Injury Association of Washington; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy C. Matthes, Mayor of the City of Port Orchard, designate March 2014 as

NATIONAL BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Port Orchard and I call upon all employees and citizens of the City of Port Orchard to observe this month with appropriate recognition whereof.

Signed the 11th day of March 2014

Timothy C. Matthes, Mayor