



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

**FLORIDA FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION WEEK**

WHEREAS, Okaloosa Deputy Sheriff Bill Myers and Ocala Police Officer Jared Forsyth lost their lives in the line of duty last year; and

WHEREAS, each loss of a first responder is heartbreaking, and losing two heroes over the last year is a signal to all Floridians to pray for our men and women in uniform who protect our communities each day; and

WHEREAS, Florida's first responders include law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMTs who bravely and selflessly risk their lives every day to protect Florida families, visitors, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Florida's first responders do not hesitate to risk their own lives in order to save the lives of others, and their commitment to continued training, skill enhancement, and inter-agency coordination make them vital members of every Florida community; and

WHEREAS, acts of kindness and appreciation from citizens for first responders provide them encouragement and support to confront the dangerous and uncertain situations they face every day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby proclaim January 4-8, 2016 as *Florida First Responder Appreciation Week* and encourage all Floridians to take time out of their day to show first responders and their families how much we value their service to our cities, counties, and state. *Florida First Responder Appreciation Week* is an opportunity for Florida leaders at every level to demonstrate appreciation for all men and women who protect and serve our state as first responders and an opportunity for Floridians to say, "thank you," to the first responders who keep them safe.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this ninth day of December, in the year two thousand fifteen.

  
Governor