

## **SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK**

**WHEREAS, each year, Floridians face the threat of severe weather events such as tornadoes, thunderstorms, flooding, extreme temperatures, lightning, and hurricanes, all with potential impact to life and property; and**

**WHEREAS, continued population growth increases the potential for severe weather to cause death and destruction within Florida; and**

**WHEREAS, numerous weather-related injuries and substantial property damage occurred in 2012 due to severe weather; hurricanes, rip currents, extreme temperatures, thunderstorms, tornadoes, and lightning caused at least 29 deaths and injured and additional 30 people; and**

**WHEREAS, it is vital that an effective public outreach program highlight all types of severe weather risks and a preparedness campaign educates citizens and visitors in Florida; and**

**WHEREAS, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, along with its local, state, and federal partners, volunteer and professional associations, elected leaders, and news media, is committed to educating Florida citizens and visitors about severe weather preparedness so they may better protect themselves, their families, and their businesses; and**

**WHEREAS, the State of Florida, Get a Plan! and Kids Get a Plan public education campaigns help citizens and visitors understand the importance of emergency preparedness and provide them with the tools necessary to be prepared in an emergency;**

**WHEREAS, the State of Florida appreciates the cooperation of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the 67 county emergency management agencies, the National Weather Service, and the news media in raising awareness about the importance of being prepared for severe weather;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing February 11 – 15, 2013, as *Severe Weather Awareness Week* in Florida and I encourage our citizens to become more aware of severe weather safety measures and participate in the various awareness programs available during this week, such as the statewide tornado drill on Wednesday, February 13, 2013.**

**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 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the year two thousand thirteen.**

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**Governor**

**CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK**

**WHEREAS, congenital heart defects are the most frequently occurring birth defect and the leading cause of birth defect related deaths worldwide; and**

**WHEREAS, over a million families across America are facing the challenges and hardships of raising children with congenital heart defects; and**

**WHEREAS, every year, 40,000 babies are born in the United States with congenital heart defects; and**

**WHEREAS, some congenital heart defects are not diagnosed until months or years after birth; and**

**WHEREAS, undiagnosed congenital heart conditions cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes; and**

**WHEREAS, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life and to remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone; and**

**WHEREAS, the establishment of Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week will also provide the opportunity to share experiences and information with the public and the media, in order to raise public awareness about Congenital Heart Defects;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing February 7 – 14, 2013, as *Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week*.**

**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 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the year two thousand thirteen.**

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**Governor**

**BATTLE OF THE BULGE DAY**

**WHEREAS, the Battle of the Bulge was fought in eastern Belgium and northern Luxembourg during World War II between December 16, 1944, and January 25, 1945; and**

**WHEREAS, the Battle of the Bulge was a major German offensive which took Allied forces by surprise and was intended to split the Allied forces in Europe by breaking through their lines, crippling fuel supply lines and exacerbating tensions within the alliance; and**

**WHEREAS, approximately 600,000 American troops participated in the Battle of the Bulge, overcoming numerous disadvantages in the early days of the battle, including fewer numbers, treacherous terrain, and bitter weather conditions; and**

**WHEREAS, the Battle of the Bulge resulted in 81,000 American casualties, including the death of approximately 19,000 American soldiers, many of whom were Floridians; and**

**WHEREAS, the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge will mark the 69th anniversary of the battle with ceremonies to honor those who sacrificed so much for our country;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing December 16, 2013, as *Battle of the Bulge Day*.**

**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 25<sup>th</sup> day of November, in the year two thousand thirteen.**

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**Governor**