



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

**FLORIDA FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION WEEK**

**WHEREAS, Orlando Police Lieutenant Debra Clayton, Orange County Deputy Norman Lewis, Jefferson County Sheriff David Hobbs, Agricultural Law Enforcement Officer Joshua Albert Sanchez Montaad, Correctional Officer Joe Heddy, Florida Highway Patrol Sgt. William T. Bishop, Kissimmee Police Officer Matthew Baxter and Sergeant Richard "Sam" Howard, Hardee County Sheriff's Deputy Julie Ann Bridges, Florida Department of Corrections Sergeant Joseph Ossman, Tallahassee Fire Department Engineer Jeffrey Atkinson Broward County Deputy Michael David Ryan, lost their lives in the line of duty in 2017; and**

**WHEREAS, following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, Florida's brave first responders swiftly deployed to assist their fellow Americans in need; and**

**WHEREAS, during Hurricane Irma, our servicemen and women courageously rescued many Floridians, assisted with evacuation and responded to the needs of communities; and**

**WHEREAS, each loss of a first responder is heartbreaking, and losing twelve 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 22 – 26, 2018, 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 19th day of January, in the year two thousand eighteen.**

  
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Governor