



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

WHEREAS, on May 14, 1948, the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel was read by David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister, and the modern Jewish State came into being; and

WHEREAS, this occasion is celebrated annually as Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, on the date on the Gregorian calendar which aligns with the fifth of Iyar, the date according to the Hebrew calendar on May 14, 1948, which this year corresponds with April 26; and

WHEREAS, the relationship between the State of Florida and the State of Israel has grown ever stronger under Governor DeSantis' leadership, commencing with Governor DeSantis' first international trip as Governor to Israel and continuing through his next visit, the first international trip of his second term as Governor of Florida, planned for April 2023; and

WHEREAS, Florida and Israel have a long history of strong cooperation and have more than 20 strategic partnerships and Memorandums of Understanding, including agreements between leading universities in Florida and Israel as well as between Space Florida and the Israel Space Agency; and

WHEREAS, during Governor DeSantis' 2019 visit to the Holy Land, he presided over a meeting of the Florida Cabinet at the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem, the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel, where he signed into law legislation to fight antisemitism; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis held meetings with Israeli leaders, visited Israel's biblical heartland Judea and Samaria, placed a prayer note in the Western Wall, laid a wreath at Yad Vashem, and promoted increased trade between the Sunshine State and the Jewish State through memorandums of understanding; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Space Coast is a venue of cooperation for Floridian and Israeli innovators, blue-green algae in Lake Okeechobee has been mitigated by an Israeli biotech company, and the major general of the Israel Defense Force's Homefront Command joined Governor DeSantis last summer to recognize the IDF's help at the Champlain Towers collapse site; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis has moved aggressively against the boycott, divest, and sanction movement by placing companies, including Airbnb and Ben & Jerry's, on Florida's List of Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel when they engage in the antisemitic BDS movement; and

WHEREAS, students in Florida's public schools are required to receive instruction on anti-Semitism and the history of the Holocaust, the systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other groups by Nazi Germany; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner's Task Force on Holocaust Education helps identify effective instructional strategies and materials for integrating the topic of the Holocaust into K-12 classrooms; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis designated the second week in November as "Holocaust Education Week" in recognition of Kristallnacht, widely recognized as a precipitating event that led to the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, the day before Yom Ha'atzmaut is Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day for fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism, and the State of Florida recognizes the sacrifice of those who have lost their lives in defense of our ally, the State of Israel, which serves as the beacon of democracy and liberty in the Middle East.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing April 26, 2023, as *Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence 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 26th day of April, in the year two thousand twenty-three.



Governor