



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS REMEMBRANCE DAY

WHEREAS, February 14, 2024, marks the sixth anniversary of one of Florida's darkest days, when 17 innocent lives were lost in a massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida; and

WHEREAS, our state and nation will always remember the lives of Alyssa Alhadeff, Scott Beigel, Martin Duque Anguiano, Nicholas Dworet, Aaron Feis, Jaime Guttenberg, Chris Hixon, Luke Hoyer, Cara Loughran, Gina Montalto, Joaquin Oliver, Alaina Petty, Meadow Pollack, Helena Ramsay, Alex Schachter, Carmen Schentrup and Peter Wang; and

WHEREAS, we will never forget the heroes of that day who risked and sacrificed their lives to protect the students, teachers, faculty, and families of Parkland, including Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School's teachers and faculty, who courageously safeguarded the lives of their students; and

WHEREAS, we will never forget the first responders and law enforcement officers who responded to the call that day to protect the innocent, and who continue to respond each and every day; and

WHEREAS, we will never forget how the City of Parkland, the County of Broward, the State of Florida, and the United States united in supporting the students, families, and community of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School; and

WHEREAS, upon taking office, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 19-45, reopening the application window for the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program, and signed legislation implementing dozens of school safety recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program is currently active in 46 counties at more than 1,200 traditional and charter public schools; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has since enacted new laws and new programs which are dedicated to the prevention of such atrocities from ever happening again, with increased school safety measures and student mental health initiatives; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Governor DeSantis signed SB 70 "Alyssa's Law" and allocated \$8 million for all public and charter schools in the State of Florida to install panic alert systems; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, SB 590 was signed into law, requiring Florida schools to develop plans to quickly notify parents of threats, unlawful acts, and significant emergencies; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Governor DeSantis signed HB 1421 into law, extending the MSD Commission and providing the commissioner additional oversight to ensure school safety; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Governor DeSantis signed HB 543 into law, authorizing private schools to implement safe school officers in partnership with local law enforcement, establishing the Florida Safe Schools Canine Program, and requiring all law enforcement agencies to adopt a written active assailant policy; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of threat management, the Florida Department of Education's Office of Safe Schools has developed a statewide behavioral threat management operational system, a Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument, and a threat management portal to maximize coordination and effective prevention; and

WHEREAS, we will continue to honor the memory of the innocent Floridians lost on that tragic day both in word and in deed, and we continue to convey our deepest sympathies to the families, loved ones, and Parkland community for their loss.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by 4 U.S.C. § 7(m), as amended on June 29, 2007, and the laws and Constitution of the State of Florida, do hereby:

1. Ask all residents of the State of Florida to pause for a moment of silence at 10:17 a.m. on February 14th; and
2. Direct all State flags in Florida to be lowered to half-staff from sunrise until sunset on February 14th in memory of the 17 Floridians we lost.

IN TESTIMONY 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 14th day of February, in the year two thousand twenty-four.

ATTEST:

Secretary of State



Governor