



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION WEEK

WHEREAS, Hillsborough County Deputy Sheriff John Kotfila, Jr., Florida Department of Corrections Sergeant Jorge Ramos, Taylor County Deputy Sheriff Scott Williams, Miami Police Department Officer Jorge Sanchez, and Nassau County Deputy Sheriff Eric Oliver lost their lives in the line of duty in 2016; and

WHEREAS, on the early hours of Sunday, June 12, 2016, Pulse Nightclub in Orlando was attacked, and Florida's brave first responders put their lives on the line to rescue the injured and prevent an even more horrific tragedy; and

WHEREAS, during Hurricanes Matthew and Hermine, 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 five 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 9 – 13, 2017, 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 fourth day of January, in the year two thousand seventeen.


Governor