



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week is an opportunity to honor the dedication and accomplishments of Florida's EMS personnel, which consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, public safety telecommunicators, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

WHEREAS, Florida's emergency responders provide vital public health services across our state, ensuring that both residents and visitors alike can feel secure in the knowledge that skilled emergency medical care is readily available; and

WHEREAS, Florida's EMS system is leading the way in innovation by implementing cutting-edge initiatives that improve patient care standards and set a benchmark for EMS systems nationwide, such as providing telehealth services for prompt medical consultations and supporting comprehensive addiction and recovery services through the Coordinated Opioid Recovery Network; and

WHEREAS, the duties of emergency responders are critical to the state's health care system, often performed under dangerous conditions, including exposure to infectious diseases, physical violence, and the emotional toll of responding to traumatic events; and

WHEREAS, the mental health and well-being of these brave men and women are of paramount importance, as they face higher rates of suicide, post-traumatic stress, and job-related burnout than the general population; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida is dedicated to supporting the physical, mental, and emotional health of our EMS workforce through programs and initiatives that focus on first responder resiliency; and

WHEREAS, 814 first responders to date participated in First Lady Casey DeSantis' trail blazing First Responder Resiliency Program that provides prevention and early intervention services to support first responders and their families; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2023-24, the Florida Department of Health launched a statewide, multi-agency telehealth and communications platform for EMS agencies and hospitals to streamline and coordinate care for patients in day-to-day operations, natural disasters, and other time-sensitive emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Florida's EMS agencies, through their unwavering commitment and compassionate service, embody the spirit of our great state, rising to the challenge each day to save lives and serve the community with honor and distinction.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing May 19 – 25, 2024, as *Emergency Medical Services 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 19th day of May, in the year two thousand twenty-four.



Governor