

State Of Florida

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck the Island of Haiti and was centered 10 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince, inflicting a catastrophe of major proportions on the poorest nation in the western hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, with at least 70% of the city's buildings and infrastructure destroyed, the earthquake killed and trapped thousands, leaving a scene of chaos and despair; and

WHEREAS, the renowned Florida Task Force One (FL-TF1) from Miami Dade Fire Rescue and Florida Task Force Two (FL-TF2) comprised of participating agencies across South Florida and sponsored by the City of Miami Fire Rescue were mobilized and deployed with highly trained search & rescue personnel, search canines and a cache of specialized tools and equipment; and

WHEREAS, the equipment cache includes breaching and breaking tools for reinforced concrete, search cameras, specialized listening equipment which can be used to locate persons buried deep in the rubble and specialty trained canines that can detect the scent of persons even when they cannot be seen or heard; and

WHEREAS, FL-TF1 and FL-TF2 were two of six urban search and rescue teams from the United States, along with forty international teams which operated in Haiti looking for survivors trapped in collapsed buildings; and

WHEREAS, the urban search and rescue efforts in Haiti resulted in the rescue of one hundred and thirty-two lives which represented the greatest number of lives saved in the history of urban search & rescue, forty-seven of which were rescued by US teams; and

WHEREAS, FL-TF1 and FL-TF2 are credited with rescuing eighteen people including five children, the rescue of a two year-old child and an American citizen from Florida all of which unfolded before a national audience on CNN; and

WHEREAS, both teams are part of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System and have responded to domestic emergencies such as the Oklahoma City Bombing, the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, and numerous hurricanes including Andrew, Opal and Katrina.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida do hereby recognize

MIAMI DADE FIRE RESCUE FLORIDA TASK FORCE ONE (FL-TF1)

AND

SOUTH FLORIDA URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE FLORIDA TASK FORCE TWO (FL-TF2)

and thank them for their bravery and courage in the face of adversity, transfixing a country and bringing a surge of gratitude and support from people all over the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida do hereby express appreciation to the families of the team members for their love and support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida formally recognize the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Mexico City earthquake and the first organized US&R response from Miami-Dade Fire Rescue. Since that time, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue has responded to disasters worldwide including earthquakes in Central and South America, the Philippines, the Soviet Union, Turkey, and Taiwan.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida have hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the Official Seal of the State of Florida to be hereunto affixed in the City of Tallahassee on this 24th day of February, 2010.



CHARLIE CRISTI
GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Charlie Crist in blue ink.

BILL MCCOLLUM
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Handwritten signature of Bill McCollum in blue ink.

ALEX SINK
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Handwritten signature of Alex Sink in blue ink.

CHARLES H. BRONSON
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Handwritten signature of Charles H. Bronson in blue ink.