

State Of Florida

Resolution

WHEREAS, in 2018 Category 5 Hurricane Michael, with 160 mph winds left behind 72 million tons and 2.8 million acres of downed and destroyed trees that provided fuel to which energized the wildfires that consumed parts of Bay and Calhoun counties; and

WHEREAS, the fast-moving wildfires the Bertha Swamp Road fire, Adkins Avenue fire and Star Avenue fire in the Florida Panhandle destroyed more than 33,000 acres, devastated two homes and damaged 12 others forcing the evacuation of more than 1,000 residential homes including a 120-bed, state-operated nursing home which houses the most vulnerable citizens, our veterans; and

WHEREAS, local fire rescue teams from across the Panhandle immediately responded to protect the lives and homes of their neighbors using 8 brush trucks, 7 engines, and 4 tankers assigned daily to the Chipola Complex event and approximately 120 local firefighters rotated through the 10 days of wildland fires, and awaited 9 additional statewide fire rescue teams, including 165 personnel from all across the state to descend on the Panhandle to provide additional support and relief to the local firefighting efforts; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis issued an Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency to ensure that state and local governments had ample time, resources and flexibility to respond to the fire and enact life-saving measures and directed the funding of \$6.1 million from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Community Action Agencies serving the affected counties which provides support to eligible families for temporary housing, food and transportation; and

WHEREAS, the local Bay County Emergency Managers worked closely with the Florida Division of Emergency Management to request assistance through the Fire Management Assistance Grant, which is available to states for the mitigation and control of fires on publicly or privately-owned forests or grasslands at the time a "threat of major disaster" exists; and

WHEREAS, our first responders willingly go into traumatic situations where exposure to these events can cause a tremendous impact on these heroes for years to come. therefore the deployment of three mental health professionals from the Tallahassee Mental Wellness Team, Indian River County Fire Rescue and Iona-McGregor Fire District were imperative to ensuring the mental health needs of our fire teams were properly addressed and invaluable support to these brave men and women; and

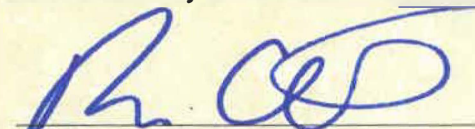
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida recognizes the unwavering heroic efforts of

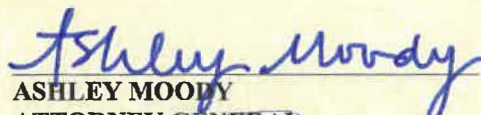
BAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PANAMA CITY BEACH FIRE DEPT
SPRINGFIELD FIRE DEPT
BAY COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES
KINARD FIRE DEPARTMENT
BLOUNTSTOWN FIRE DEPT

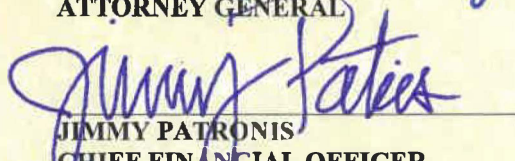
PANAMA CITY FIRE DEPT
LYNN HAVEN FIRE DEPT
CALLAWAY FIRE DEPT
CALHOUN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CARR/CLARKSVILLE FIRE DEPT
STATEWIDE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

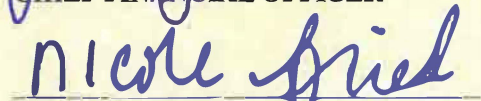
and owe a deep debt of gratitude to all first responders who are working around the clock for their service to protect others.

WHEREFORE, the Governor and the 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 29th day of March 2022.


RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR


ASHLEY MOODY
ATTORNEY GENERAL


JIMMY PATRONIS
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER


NICOLE FRIED
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE