



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, 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, responding to over 5.1 million requests for service last year, 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 delivery models – including fire-based, county-based, hospital-based, and private systems – work collaboratively to provide life-saving care, improve access to emergency services, and positively impact the lives of patients across the state; and

WHEREAS, Florida's EMS system is at the forefront of innovation, implementing initiatives that elevate patient care standards and serve as a model for EMS systems nationwide, including establishing a statewide, multi-agency telehealth and communications platform as well as the Florida Center for Emergency Medical Services to advance prehospital care through research, education, and preparedness; and

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

WHEREAS, Florida is committed to supporting the physical, mental, and emotional resilience of our EMS workforce through targeted programs and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Governor DeSantis, the "Halo Law" was enacted to prohibit the harassment of police officers and first responders actively performing their duties, ensuring their safety and ability to effectively serve our communities and reinforcing the state's commitment to protecting those who protect us; 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, the courageous service of Florida's EMS personnel exemplifies the very best of our state, as they selflessly rise to the challenge each day to save lives and serve our communities with unwavering dedication and compassion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing May 18 – 24, 2025, 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 13th day of May, in the year two thousand twenty-five.



Governor