



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR DENNIS BAXLEY
President Pro Tempore

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators and Senate Professional Staff
FROM: Dennis Baxley, President Pro Tempore
SUBJECT: Mr. John Passidomo, First Gentleman of the Florida Senate
DATE: April 3, 2024

With great sadness, I am providing the following update to the Senate family on behalf of President Passidomo.

Monday afternoon, while hiking with the President in Utah, the First Gentleman, Mr. John Passidomo, fell and suffered massive trauma to his head, among other very serious injuries. Mr. Passidomo was transported from the trail by ambulance to a local hospital, and shortly thereafter by air to a regional trauma center. After a thorough evaluation by the very best medical teams over the next 24 hours, the President was advised that Mr. Passidomo would not survive these severe injuries. Their family quickly traveled to Utah and with the President and their three daughters by his side, the First Gentleman passed away peacefully at 3:21 p.m. EDT.

As you know, the President and First Gentleman were law school sweethearts, looking forward to celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary in September. The trip to visit several national parks in Utah was one of many great adventures they shared during five decades together. Their last few days together were marked by many special moments, beautiful scenery, and wonderful reflections on their lifetime together and plans to live out their golden years watching their grandchildren grow up. The President has lost the love of her life, and is absolutely devastated by this sudden and unexpected accident.

As you may know, Mr. Passidomo was very fit and active, with overall excellent health at age 72. He was listed as an organ donor, and the President wanted to honor those wishes. Late last night, matches for several of the First Gentleman's organs were identified. The President and her family are taking comfort in the fact their great loss has resulted in a life-saving gift for other families.

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Reflecting back on the last 48 hours, the President is very grateful to the National Park Service, to local first responders in Garfield County, Utah, and medical personnel at Garfield Memorial Hospital, who provided life sustaining care to Mr. Passidomo. In particular, the superintendent of Bryce Canyon National Park along with the Park's Family Liaison Officer, and social work staff from Garfield County provided vigilant support and help to the President as she navigated this traumatic medical emergency in an unfamiliar and remote location. Fellow hikers on the trail were the first to reach Mr. Passidomo. Their quick action sustained his life, not only providing precious moments for the family to say goodbye, but also making organ donation possible, effectively saving the lives of others.

She is also very tremendously thankful for the dedicated staff at the trauma center at St. George Regional Hospital who provided around-the-clock care for Mr. Passidomo and support for the President, answering all of her questions with compassion and professionalism and consulting with a broad range of specialists in Salt Lake City and at UF Health Shands to ensure he received the best possible medical support under the circumstances. Dr. Michael Okun, M.D., Director of the Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases at the University of Florida spent a great deal of time speaking with the President and her daughters, which was a great comfort to their family.

Funeral plans will be made in the coming weeks. We will certainly share those details when they are finalized. In the meantime, please join me in praying that the grace and peace of God, our Father, our hope and comfort in times of distress, will be with the President and their entire family during this unimaginable time of sorrow, and in the difficult weeks and months ahead.