

By Senator Gaetz

4-07375A-09

20092830__

Senate Resolution

A resolution expressing profound gratitude to Okaloosa County Sheriff Deputies Anthony Forgione, Burt Lopez, and Warren "Skip" York for their service, sacrifice, and devotion to duty, which cost them their lives, and extending heartfelt prayers and condolences to their families as they grieve this overwhelming loss.

WHEREAS, the right of the people of the United States of America to raise their children, to gain an education, to build and maintain their homes, to maintain their safety, and to otherwise exercise the freedoms on which this country is based is protected daily by the members of law enforcement agencies, and

WHEREAS, this solemn duty borne by law enforcement officers is fraught with peril and performed at great risk to those who protect the public, and

WHEREAS, the safety of the people of the State of Florida has been guarded with honor in Okaloosa County by Deputy Sheriff Anthony Forgione, Deputy Sheriff Burt Lopez, and Deputy Sheriff Warren "Skip" York, and

WHEREAS, in the discharge of their duties, Deputy Forgione, Deputy Lopez, and Deputy York dedicated themselves to the safety and protection of the people of the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, when called upon to sacrifice their own safety for the protection of the people he served, Deputy Forgione selflessly sacrificed himself in the discharge of his duty in that he gave his life on July 22, 2008, in Fort Walton Beach, and

4-07375A-09

20092830__

30 WHEREAS, when called upon to sacrifice their own safety for
31 the protection of the people they served, Deputy Lopez and
32 Deputy York selflessly sacrificed themselves in the discharge of
33 their duties in that each gave his life on April 25, 2009, in
34 Crestview, Okaloosa County, and

35 WHEREAS, the families of Deputy Forgione, Deputy Lopez, and
36 Deputy York have selflessly assumed the burden of lending their
37 loved ones to the cause of justice and freedom, and

38 WHEREAS, the enormous cost of this sacrifice has been
39 shouldered by the families of these brave public servants, and

40 WHEREAS, the residents of the State of Florida owe a debt
41 to these men and to their loved ones which mere words can never
42 convey, NOW, THEREFORE,

43
44 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

45
46 That on behalf of all Floridians, the Senate expresses its
47 profound gratitude to Deputies Forgione, Lopez, and York for
48 their service, sacrifice, and devotion to duty.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Florida extends
50 its heartfelt prayers and condolences to the families of
51 Deputies Forgione, Lopez, and York and prays that they find
52 solace in the respect and honor that the people of Florida hold
53 for their loved ones.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this last full measure of
55 devotion given by Deputy Anthony Forgione, Deputy Burt Lopez,
56 and Deputy Warren "Skip" York will not be soon forgotten, and
57 that their costly sacrifice for the people of the community they
58 loved will be long cherished.

4-07375A-09

20092830__

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that May 15, 2009, be set aside as a
60 day of solemn remembrance of the bravery of these resolute
61 public servants.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution, with
63 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be delivered to the families of
64 Deputy Anthony Forgione, Deputy Burt Lopez, and Deputy Warren
65 "Skip" York in conjunction with National Police Week as a
66 tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.