

HR 8055

2019

House Resolution

A resolution designating February 10, 2019, as "First Responders Mental Health Awareness Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, Florida is home to a large community of first responders, which include law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical service professionals, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics, who work tirelessly on behalf of the people of this state, often without regard to the peril or hazard to themselves, and

WHEREAS, while mental health problems can affect people of all ages and all walks of life, first responders are at a higher risk than the general population of suffering mental health issues due to the challenging nature of their job duties, and

WHEREAS, mental health issues include depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, acute stress disorder, and high rates of suicide, and

WHEREAS, studies show that many first responders do not address their own mental health concerns for fear of being perceived as weak or being treated unfavorably by supervisors, and

WHEREAS, many different treatments are available to assist with mental health issues and studies have shown that a combination of treatments are effective in helping people achieve strength and recovery from mental health issues, and

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26 WHEREAS, mental health treatment and awareness provided in
27 a caring and supportive atmosphere are vital for first
28 responders struggling with mental illness, NOW, THEREFORE,

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30 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
31 Florida:

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33 That in recognition of the tremendous service provided by
34 first responders who may suffer from mental health issues as a
35 result of their services to others, February 10, 2019, is
36 designated as "First Responders Mental Health Awareness Day" in
37 Florida.