

By Senator Perry

8-00924A-21

2021618\_\_

1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing May 10, 2021, and each May 10  
3 thereafter, as "First Responders Mental Health  
4 Awareness Day" in Florida.

5  
6 WHEREAS, Florida is home to a large community of first  
7 responders, including law enforcement officers, firefighters,  
8 emergency medical service professionals, emergency medical  
9 technicians, and paramedics, who work tirelessly on behalf of  
10 the people of this state, often without regard to the peril to  
11 their own well-being, and

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

16 WHEREAS, research frequently describes shame and stigma  
17 surrounding mental health care needs within a profession that  
18 prioritizes bravery and toughness, and

19 WHEREAS, while this culture is, perhaps, necessary to  
20 survive the dangers of the job, it also contributes to the  
21 phenomenon of first responders not seeking help to manage  
22 chronic stress or trauma injury, or not even recognizing the  
23 need before it becomes critical, and

24 WHEREAS, we also must recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic  
25 represents one of the biggest challenges in modern times,  
26 especially to our first responders, as they face increased  
27 workloads as they adapt to policing and emergency response  
28 models in a pandemic, compounding the dynamic nature of first  
29 responder stress and fatigue at a time when health, wellness,

8-00924A-21

2021618\_\_

30 and resiliency are more critical than ever, and

31 WHEREAS, police, firefighters, and emergency medical  
32 personnel pay a high price for their prompt response to the  
33 needs of others, and

34 WHEREAS, we owe a great debt to our first responders and  
35 will continue to work to improve their mental health care, their  
36 lives, and the lives of their families, no matter the week or  
37 month, and

38 WHEREAS, we salute all of our heroes risking their lives to  
39 protect us all, NOW, THEREFORE,

40

41 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

42

43 That May 10, 2021, and each May 10 thereafter, is  
44 recognized as "First Responders Mental Health Awareness Day" in  
45 Florida.