



## **Proclamation**

Board of County Commissioners  
Manatee County, Florida

**WHEREAS**, Chief Byron J. Teates began his career as a volunteer fireman with the former Samoset Fire Department in 1975, serving with that agency for six months before moving to England and serving for five years with the West Yorkshire County Fire Brigade; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Teates returned to Manatee County in 1981, joining the Braden River Volunteer Fire Department in 1984 and moving up through the ranks until he was hired full-time as a Shift Officer in 1992; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2003, the Chief became the Interim Fire Chief, inheriting a District that was in debt and in a declared financial emergency, instituting several conservative spending policies, negotiating with the union to hold the line on salary and benefits, and developing a five-year plan to see the District solvent again and to get ahead of the rapid growth and increasing demands for service; and

**WHEREAS**, by 2005, Chief Teates had been appointed the Fire Chief and the District was no longer in financial difficulty and had rebranded itself under a new name – East Manatee Fire Rescue; and

**WHEREAS**, over the years the Chief taught fire science classes at Manatee Vo-Tech as an Adjunct Instructor, has been a member of the Manatee County Hazardous Materials Team, and helped to create the Manatee County Professional Firefighters and Paramedics Association, Local 4074; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Teates has received several local and State commendations, was presented with the Manatee County Fire Chiefs' Hazardous Materials Team Award in 2011, and was selected by his staff as the 2015 Fire Officer of the Year; and

**WHEREAS**, under his leadership, the District added 41 line and staff positions, built and acquired four additional fire stations and an administrative/training complex, acquired additional fire engines and an aerial platform, improved their ISO (International Organization for Standardization) rating from six to four, and became debt free; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 19, 2016, the District's new Station 2 will be dedicated to the Chief; and

**WHEREAS**, after 33 years of service, exceptional loyalty, and extreme dedication, Chief Teates will be retiring on January 9, 2017.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that December 19, 2016, shall be known, designated, and set aside as

### **CHIEF BYRON J. TEATES DAY**

in Manatee County, Florida, in recognition of his many achievements and his service to the citizens of the County and the East Manatee Fire Rescue District.

**ADOPTED** with a quorum present and voting this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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Vanessa Baugh, Chairman

ATTEST: **Angelina Colonnese**  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

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