

Proclamation

HONORING BLAKE ALAN BARTHOLOMEW ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM INDIAN RIVER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FIRE RESCUE DIVISION

Whereas, Engineer Blake Bartholomew began his career with Indian River County Fire Rescue on July 24, 1989, when he was hired by the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department as a Paramedic; and

Whereas, on October 19, 2007, due to the consolidation of the EMS and Fire Departments, Blake earned his State Firefighting Certification resulting in his promotion November 2, 2007, to Fire Medic; and

Whereas, on May 29, 2015, he was promoted to Engineer and found his calling specializing in Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) becoming one of the few designated Engineers for the Airport Crash Truck in which position he continued until his retirement on July 30, 2024; and,

Whereas, Blake was chosen by his peers and leadership to be honored with the Engineer of the Year Award for 2023 to 2024; and

Whereas, throughout his 35-year career, Blake was praised by Fire Rescue command, his fellow crew members and the community for his advanced knowledge of Emergency Medicine during incidents, while teaching college students, mentoring new hires; and

Whereas, Blake's decade of volunteering as the Coordinator and Vice President of the Indian River County Big Heart Brigade garnered even more praise for providing thousands of Thanksgiving turkey dinners to residents in need; and

Now, Therefore, be it Proclaimed by the Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida, that the Board is grateful to Blake Bartholomew for his thirty-five years of unwavering service, commitment and dedication to his profession, his peers, and the citizens of Indian River County.

Be It Further Proclaimed that the Board of County Commissioners and staff extend heartfelt wishes for success in his future endeavors!

Adopted this 20th day of August 2024.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Susan Adams, Chairman