

# PROCLAMATION

## HONORING THE HEROISM OF GAGE KEPLEY

**WHEREAS**, every society is defined by the actions of individual members in helping one another when in need; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans are collectively known around the world as a generous and caring people, willing to sacrifice their own well-being to assist others, even under the most extreme and dangerous circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, on Monday, May 17, 2021, nine-year-old Gage Kepley, a third-grader at Pelican Island Elementary, was travelling with his mother and two siblings when their vehicle went out-of-control, coming to rest in a pond off Schumann Drive in Sebastian; and

**WHEREAS**, Gage, recognizing the danger of drowning, calmly unbuckled his five-year-old brother from his car seat and then held open the car door, allowing his family to escape the sinking vehicle; and

**WHEREAS**, Gage's quick thinking under pressure was key to the successful rescue of the whole family, and allowed for a happy ending to a terrifying incident.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that Gage Kepley's selfless actions in the face of great danger to himself have reflected the finest American traditions and ideals, and the Board urges all Indian River County residents to follow Gage's superb example and show similar kindness and concern in the day-to-day lives of all our neighbors.

Adopted this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

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

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Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman

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Peter D. O'Bryan, Vice Chairman

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Susan Adams

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Joseph H. Earman

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Laura Moss