

**Before the Board of County Commissioners
Martin County, Florida**

A Proclamation

Congratulating Smokey Bear on the Occasion of his 75th Birthday

- Whereas,** on August 4, 2019, Smokey Bear will celebrate his 75th birthday, which also marks his wildfire prevention campaign as the longest running public service campaign in U.S. history. Smokey’s message is as relevant today as it was in 1944 as more people are living closer and closer to natural areas – so no retirement for Smokey; and
- Whereas,** the mission of the Florida Forest Service is to protect Florida and its people from the dangers of wildland fire and to manage forest resources through a stewardship ethic to assure they are available for future generations; and
- Whereas,** in the last five years Florida Forest Service Wildland Firefighters have responded to over 156 wildfires in Martin County that burned 3,211.8 acres, in many instances threatening communities and adjoining infrastructure; and
- Whereas,** the Florida Forest Service is actively engaged in promoting and conducting prescribed burns and other wildfire mitigation practices to reduce the size and intensity of a wildfire that may threaten communities and other infrastructure. In the last five years, the Florida Forest Service has provided 8,407 burn authorizations to local ranchers, farmers and land managers in Martin County to maintain and restore natural ecosystems and reduce the wildfire hazard.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners that Smokey Bear is congratulated on his 75th birthday and his continued efforts to remind citizens to be careful when using fire in natural areas. Further, the board commends the men and women of the Florida Forest Service for their partnership with Martin County and Smokey Bear in wildfire prevention and mitigation.

Presented this Thirtieth Day of July 2019

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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