

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota's first responders, including firefighters, law enforcement, EMTs, paramedics, and 911 dispatchers, serve with courage and dedication protecting all South Dakotans; and,

Whereas, Many South Dakota first responders, particularly in rural communities, are volunteers who sacrifice personal time to serve their communities without expectation of recognition or reward; and,

Whereas, these brave men and women arrive first at emergencies, providing critical life-saving assistance to South Dakotans in their moments of greatest need and risking their own lives; and,

Whereas, first responders face dangerous and traumatic situations daily, from severe weather emergencies to highway accidents, while maintaining readiness 24 hours a day, 365 days a year; and,

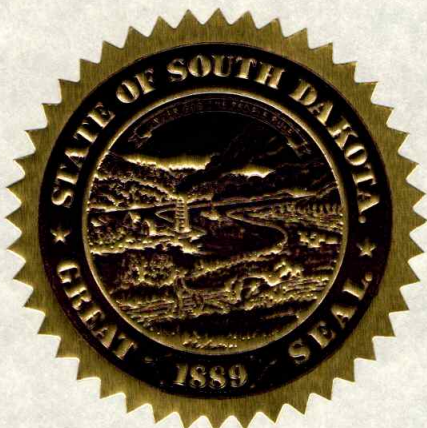
Whereas, the mental and physical demands placed upon first responders require ongoing community support, recognition, and resources to ensure they can effectively protect our communities; and,

Whereas, Aurora County became the first county in South Dakota to designate October as First Responders Appreciation Month, inspiring statewide recognition of these everyday heroes; and,

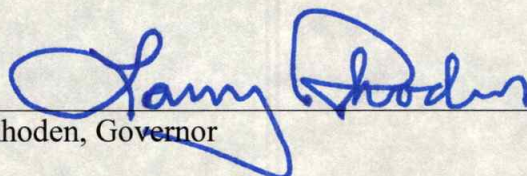
Whereas, recognizing our first responders strengthens community bonds, demonstrates gratitude for their sacrifices, and encourages the next generation of South Dakotans to serve:

Now, Therefore, I, Larry Rhoden, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 2026, as

FIRST RESPONDERS' APPRECIATION MONTH
in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-First Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.


Larry Rhoden, Governor

Attest:


Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State