The County of Centre

PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 31 OF 2019

WHEREAS, water rescues on the waterways and lakes of Centre County and neighboring counties have increased dramatically due to flooding, the number one threat in Pennsylvania and the Nation, as well as the increased popularity of various water sports; and

WHEREAS, after the flash flood event in October 2016, the Centre County Volunteer Fire Departments of Howard, Milesburg (Citizens), Pine Glen and Pleasant Gap joined forces with their boat and water rescue assets to train and develop a Swift Water Rescue Task Force. This training is in addition to the incredible efforts already exerted by these volunteer fire departments and EMS organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Voluntary Rescue Service Recognition Program classifies each volunteer fire department by type based on its number of members, training capabilities and equipment. Through the combined efforts of these departments they achieved the designation of a ‘2A’ Swift Water Rescue Team; and

WHEREAS, through the hard work, dedication and professionalism of these 50 individuals and their departments they have improved training, equipment and capabilities and are to be recognized as a Water Rescue asset not only within Centre County, but surrounding counties and the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, they have trained with and are recognized by the South Central Mountain Regional Task Force (SCMRTF), Centre County EMA, PEMA, Pennsylvania Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (PA HART) and others. They have received financial support through the SCMRTF, other grants, donations, and fundraising.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Centre County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize the Centre County Swift Water Rescue Task Force and the four individual volunteer departments not only for their life-saving capabilities but also as an official, primary emergency services entity. The Centre County Board of Commissioners also endorses and supports the personnel, their efforts, their resources and their goals and objectives to continue to enhance their response capabilities.

ADOPTED this 15th day of October 2019.

CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michael Pipe, Chair

Mark Higgins, Vice-Chair

Steven G. Dershern

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray, Administrator