

From: Governor's Press Office [Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com]
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Governor Scott and Florida Cabinet Issue Resolution Recognizing Corporal Julio Torres as Trooper of the Year



TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Cabinet issues the following resolution recognizing Corporal Julio F. Torres as the 2017 Florida Highway Patrol Trooper of the Year. The Trooper of the Year is awarded to a deserving member of the Florida Highway Patrol for their core values of courtesy, service and protection ensuring the safety and welfare of millions of Florida citizens and visitors.

Governor Rick Scott said, "I'm honored to recognize Corporal Julio Torres as Florida Highway Patrol's 2017 Trooper of the Year. His quick actions responding to an accident were heroic, and illustrate the

dedication of our state law enforcement officers. I'd like to thank Corporal Torres and the hardworking law enforcement officer across the state who protect our communities every day."

About Corporal Julio F. Torres

On February 3, 2016, Corporal Torres was traveling southbound on Interstate 75 in Charlotte County when he witnessed a multi-vehicle crash. One vehicle had broken through the guardrail and landed overturned in a retention pond. Corporal Torres entered the water to rescue the trapped victim, and used a knife and crowbar to successfully cut through the seatbelt and remove the passenger. He immediately began administering CPR until emergency medical services arrived.

Corporal Torres is currently assigned to FHP Troop L in Broward County and has been with FHP for more than four years.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Troopers of the Florida Highway Patrol daily demonstrate the core values of courtesy, service and protection ensuring the safety and welfare of millions of Florida citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, throughout a Trooper's career they may encounter situations that distinguish themselves through extraordinary bravery and quick action during the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Julio F. Torres is a veteran of the Florida Highway Patrol currently assigned in the Troop F Southwest Florida District; and

WHEREAS, Cpl. Torres observed on February 3, 2016 at approximately 7:55 a.m. an automobile collision on mile marker 145 of Interstate 75 (State Road 93); and

WHEREAS, Cpl. Torres witnessed one of the vehicles involved in the collision careen through a guardrail, overturn and enter a retention pond located in that area of I-75; and

WHEREAS, upon arriving on the scene and quickly conducting interviews of other occupants of the crash vehicle, Cpl. Torres ascertained that the driver of the vehicle had not exited and remained trapped in the vehicle and submerged in the holding pond; and

WHEREAS, Cpl. Torres, without regard for his personal safety and well-being, entered the water and gained entrance to the vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Cpl. Torres was able to free the submerged driver and pass the driver to off-duty Ft. Myers Police Officer Cassie McHale, who stopped to assist in the efforts; and

WHEREAS, Cpl. Torres, with the assistance of Officer McHale, conducted CPR until Emergency Medical Services personnel arrived on the scene.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor and the Cabinet of the State of Florida do hereby recognize and commend

CORPORAL JULIO F. TORRES 2017 TROOPER OF THE YEAR

for his heroic actions in service and protection leading to the safety and welfare of the citizens and visitors of Florida.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida have hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the Official Seal of the State of Florida to be hereunto affixed in the City of Tallahassee this 7th day of November, 2017.

**RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR**

**PAM BONDI
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**JIMMY PATRONIS
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

**ADAM. H. PUTNAM
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE**

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