

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NASSAU COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 3, 2016 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE THIOKOL PLANT WORKERS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Thiokol Chemical Plant was located on 7,400 acres of property at Harrietts Bluff in Woodbine, Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, the Thiokol Chemical Plant manufactured detergent gases, trip flares, and ammunition for the United States Army during the Vietnam War; and

**WHEREAS**, at 10:53 a.m. on Wednesday, February 3, 1971, large quantities of flares and their components in Building M-132 were ignited by a fire and detonation occurred; and

**WHEREAS**, the explosion and fire claimed the lives of 29 plant workers, and another 50 workers suffered from debilitating injuries, including burns and severed limbs; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1971, the only emergency capability in Camden County was a 25-man volunteer fire department located in Kingsland, 12 miles southwest of the plant; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kingsland Volunteer Fire Department immediately requested ambulances and equipment from surrounding cities including the City of Jacksonville, Florida, City of Fernandina Beach, and Nassau County, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, a joint emergency response of historical magnitude took place which included responses from 3 states, 14 cities, 8 hospitals, the Georgia and Florida State police, United States Army and Navy, the Coast Guard, Georgia Forestry Division, and several city/county fire departments; and

**WHEREAS**, the response was an example of how human spirit triumphed over devastation; and

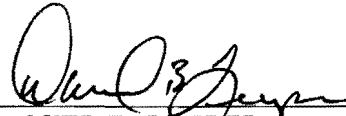
**WHEREAS**, the Thiokol Plant Explosion is ranked as the worst disaster in southeast Georgia, and as the 10<sup>th</sup> worst industrial disaster in the United States in the last 100 years; and

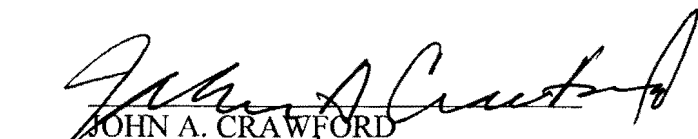
**WHEREAS**, Thiokol Memorial Project, Inc., strives to honor the heroic acts of those who risked their lives to save others and to depict to the world the compassion shown during and in the aftermath of this tragic event.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016, that:

1. The Board hereby proclaims February 3, 2016 as a Day of Remembrance for the Thiokol Plant Workers.
2. The Board encourages all citizens to stand for a moment of silence on February 3, 2016 at 10:53 a.m. to reflect upon the lives lost and to honor those who risk their lives to help others.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DANIEL B. LEEPER  
Its: Vice Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN A. CRAWFORD  
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form by the  
Nassau County Attorney:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL S. MULLIN