

PROCLAMATION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, Harlow’s Helping Hands is a dedicated community organization in Marion County committed to protecting children and families through education, outreach, and advocacy for water safety; and

WHEREAS, Marion County is home to numerous lakes, rivers, pools, and recreational water areas that provide enjoyment and opportunities for residents and visitors, while also presenting serious safety risks if proper precautions are not taken; and

WHEREAS, drowning remains one of the leading causes of accidental death for young children ages one to four, and increased awareness, education, and supervision can significantly reduce these preventable tragedies; and

WHEREAS, Harlow’s Helping Hands works to promote life-saving practices such as swimming education, water safety awareness, responsible supervision, and community engagement to help keep children safe around water; and

WHEREAS, recognizing Water Safety Day in Marion County will help bring attention to the importance of water safety education, encourage families to learn lifesaving skills, and support the mission of Harlow’s Helping Hands to protect every child in our community;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us do hereby proclaim that **April 18th, 2026** be known as

“WATER SAFETY DAY”

DULY PROCLAIMED this 7th day of **April, 2026**.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

CARL ZALAK, III, CHAIRMAN

MATT MCCLAIN, VICE CHAIR

KATHY BRYANT, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

MICHELLE STONE, COMMISSIONER

GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER