

WHEREAS, Law enforcement officers and emergency professionals are among America's greatest heroes. Every day, these men and women protect the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport by serving all passengers, visitors and employees with respect, fairness and compassion.

WHEREAS, Few people think of the Airport Police and Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighters and support staff when they think about the airport, but their role is vital to the traveling public.

WHEREAS, The Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport Police and Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Department officers and staff are committed to aviation safety and security to ensure that the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport and entire air transportation systems remains the finest in the world; prevention of crime and the protection of life and property; the preservation of peace, order and safety; the enforcement of laws and ordinances and the safeguarding of constitutional guarantees.

WHEREAS, The Citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish enjoy the benefits of the finest air travel transportation systems at the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport. This infrastructure is a mainstay of our economy and the means by which our citizens enjoy unprecedented mobility.

WHEREAS, Commercial and general aviation touches the lives of people throughout the United States and the world by uniting families and friends together; delivering aid to those in need; and facilitating industry and commerce.

WHEREAS, The Baton Rouge Airport Police and Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Department works in cooperation with a number of local, state and federal agencies, including the Transportation Security Administration, FBI, U.S. Customs Service, Federal Aviation Administration, IRS, Secret Service, State Department, Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Postal Inspector, Louisiana State Police, Capitol Police, Baton Rouge City Police, Baton Rouge Fire Department and surrounding municipal Police and Fire Departments, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriffs Office, and the East Baton Rouge Office of Emergency Preparedness.

WHEREAS, The dedicated Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport Police and Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting officers put themselves at great risk while working tirelessly on the front lines in the fight against crime, violence, and terrorism. It is in times of today, that Airport Police and Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting services mitigate fires, conducts rescues, handles hazardous material incidents and responds to any other type of emergency that threatens life, safety, property loss or environmental protection at the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport.

WHEREAS, In recognition of the selfless dedication of the brave men and women who devote their lives to protecting and serving our community, the City of Baton Rouge, Parish of East Baton Rouge, Metropolitan Council and the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport Commission owe a considerable debt of gratitude to the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport Police and Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting officers and emergency professionals that make valuable humanitarian differences in our community. These men and women, through their patriotic service and dedicated effort, have earned our gratitude and respect.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MELVIN L. "KIP" HOLDEN, Mayor-President of East Baton Rouge Parish, do hereby proclaim August 15 through August 19, 2005, as Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport Police and Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Week. I call on all Citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish to observe this event with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand five.