



C O U N T Y O F

Inyo

Proclamation

HONORING THE HEROISM OF JASON MORGAN AND EVERETT HOLLAND

WHEREAS, tragedy can strike at any moment, without warning; and

WHEREAS, tragedy can oftentimes be averted thanks to the quick and brave actions of our fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, this was exactly the case on Sunday, May 15, when Jason Morgan, a 14-year Los Angeles Department of Water employee and seven-year member of the Big Pine Volunteer Fire Department, and local citizen Everett Holland aided in saving several people from drowning in Klondike Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Big Pine Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to the lake at 1:48 p.m. to a report of six people and a dog who were possibly drowning; and

WHEREAS, it was discovered that an individual suffered a medical emergency and fell out of her kayak and that two companions overturned their kayak trying to rescue her; and

WHEREAS, two paddleboarders also attempted to help, as did a bystander who swam to their aid from shore; and

WHEREAS, none of the six individuals were wearing flotation devices, and now one other additional was experiencing a medical emergency, Big Pine Fire Chief Damon Carrington launched a rescue effort and search for additional resources; and

WHEREAS, LADWP sent a boat from Bishop, which would take 15 minutes to arrive; and

WHEREAS, Fire Captain Morgan was listening to radio traffic and knew that time was of the essence, he hauled his personal boat to the lake from the community of Big Pine – saving precious minutes in the rescue effort; and

WHEREAS, Captain Morgan's quick thinking and decisive action saved the lives of everyone involved, including the two individuals suffering medical injuries who would have died if rescuers had to wait an additional 10 minutes for the boat from Bishop; and

WHEREAS, a Big Pine resident also leaped into action, following Captain Morgan to the lake, helping him launch the boat, and jumping in to help;

WHEREAS, this individual, Everett Holland, dove into the water to secure a life vest on the victim who was having seizures, and then maneuvered both victims into the boat; and

WHEREAS, first responders agree that the outcome of May 15 would have been tragic were it not for the actions of Captain Morgan and Mr. Holland.

NOW, THEREFOR BE IT PROCLAIMED, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors recognizes, with respect and gratitude, the heroic actions and selfless courage of Captain Jason Morgan and Everett Holland in the act of saving the lives of several individuals in danger of drowning, which they did without hesitation and with their own welfare at risk.

APPROVED AND PROCLAIMED this 7th day of June 2022.



Dan Totheroh

Chairperson Dan Totheroh

