



TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

Land Where Flight Began

MEMORANDUM

February 9, 2026

TO: Mayor and Board of Commissioners
FROM: John Windley, Mayor
REF: Mayor's Agenda

1. Resolutions and Proclamations

A. Proclamation Honoring Kill Devil Hills Fire Department's 70th Anniversary (Attached MA-1A)

The first responders of Kill Devil Hills are among the most highly trained, caring, and dedicated professionals in the United States. I am requesting the Board's adoption of this *Proclamation Honoring Kill Devil Hills Fire Department's 70th Anniversary*. Special thanks to Fire Chief Frank M. Roepcke, III, and his committed team that keeps our community safe.



TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

Land Where Flight Began

Proclamation Honoring Kill Devil Hills Fire Department on its 70th Anniversary

WHEREAS, a volunteer fire department was established in 1953 that served portions of the northern Dare County Outer Banks including Kill Devil Hills; and,

WHEREAS, on February 9, 1956, an Ordinance was unanimously adopted by the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners, which officially established the Kill Devil Hills Volunteer Fire Department, the first in Dare County; and,

WHEREAS, in 1982 the first paid Fire Inspector in Dare County, Craig Clark, was hired by the Town of Kill Devil Hills, which initiated our strong inspection community prevention program that continues to function so proficiently today; and

WHEREAS, in true Kill Devil Hills fashion throughout its history the Fire Department proudly set a high standard for quality of service and innovation that has included:

- Being the first department to address the needs for an aerial device in Dare County with the 1980 purchase of an American LaFrance Teles-quirt with a 55-foot ladder and aerial Fire Stream, which combined an aerial device, pump, hose and a water tank that gave our Firefighters needed flexibility on the fire grounds that was not yet available to other departments in Dare County;
- Utilizing the Fire Inspector to document apparatus, Fire Department responses, training, maintenance, and improvements made to the Kill Devil Hills water system, all in order to achieve the well-deserved ISO Rating of #1, achieved in 2023;
- Being the first in our area to contract for a part-time Fire Chief position, that in 1986 became the first full-time paid chief position held by William E. Gard;
- Being the first Dare County Fire Department, on January 13, 1986, to add career personnel to our volunteer personnel, which created what is known as a combination fire department – thus allowing the KDH-FD the quick response of in-house personnel and the economy of qualified volunteer Firefighters;
- Adding an in-house Ocean Rescue Division in 2001, which gave the department the multi-functional expertise to perform ocean patrol and rescue along with land-based emergency response;
- Working with Dare County to develop and construct a state-of-the art facility at 1630 North Croatan Highway, dedicated as the William E. Gard Fire Station #14 on August 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, today, the Kill Devil Hills Fire Department includes 21 paid employees, with a Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, three Fire Captains, three Fire Sergeants, 11 Firefighters and one Administrative Specialist; the Volunteer Company includes 27 members; and

WHEREAS, all career and volunteer members belong to a highly-trained professional and full-service fire and rescue team that meets the needs of our ever-growing municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim Monday, February 9, 2026, as the:

70th Anniversary of the Kill Devil Hills Fire Department

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED by the Board of Commissioners, that all Kill Devil Hills Firefighters, career and volunteer, all Ocean Rescue Division responders, all Fire Support Group members, and all Fire Auxiliary personnel - all who remember the past and look forward to the department's successes of the future are hereby especially recognized as Kill Devil Hills' "Bravest," this the 9th day of February 2026.

This _____ day of _____, 2026.

SEAL

John L. Windley

Mayor

ATTEST:

James Michael O'Dell
Town Clerk