FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Late Commissioner Frank Meeker’s photo selected for Florida Association of Counties 2017 calendar cover

December 6, 2016 – A stunning image of a tiger swallowtail on a Florida flame azalea taken by the late Flagler County Commissioner Frank Meeker graces the Florida Association of Counties 2017 calendar cover.

Commission Chair Nate McLaughlin held up the calendar at Monday’s regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and announced that the photograph taken by Meeker was one of 15 selected for inclusion for the coming year’s calendar.

“This photo was taken by the late Flagler County Commissioner Frank J. Meeker,” McLaughlin read from the inside front cover. “Commissioner Meeker was a dedicated public servant, a passionate advocate for the citizens of Flagler County and an avid amateur photographer.”

Meeker, 61, represented County Commission District 2. He passed away in July, and Governor Rick Scott will announce who will fulfill the remainder of his term. Even while battling cancer, he worked tirelessly to get a $500,000 grant for the MalaCompra Basin Water Quality Enhancement Project.

“This is bittersweet,” County Administrator Craig Coffey said. “While it is wonderful that he is being honored for one of his passions, it’s also a reminder that there is that big void to try to fill on our commission.”

Members of the Florida Association of Counties decided on a theme of flora and fauna for the 2017 calendar contest. All 67 Florida counties were then invited to submit their best photos of the flora and fauna within their county.

“Nearly 1,000 photos were submitted, breaking our previous record of 523,” said Tracy Kusmierz, communications coordinator for the Florida Association of Counties. “From the submissions, 15 were selected for the 2017 FAC Calendar.”

They include the following: Flagler County, cover; Charlotte County, December 2016; Pinellas County, January; Martin County, February; Marion County, March; Manatee County, April; Leon County, May; Indian River County, June; Gulf County, July; Osceola County, August; Polk County, September; Hendry County, October; Hillsborough County, November; Santa Rosa County, December; and, St. Johns County, back cover.

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