

Robert S. Lay, Jr.

Robert “Bob” Lay, Director of Brevard County Emergency Management, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 69 on January 11, 2012. He was a beloved member of the community and a well-respected emergency management expert across the nation.



Bob served his country honorably both in the Marine Corps and U.S. Army, and retired as a Colonel in the Army after 30 years of service. Prior to his employment with Brevard County, Bob was employed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and served as the manager of the Disaster Field Office in Albany, GA, during the floods of 1994.

Bob served as the Director of Brevard County’s Emergency Management since April 1997, and led the County through countless emergency situations including hurricanes and wildfires.

Former Governor Lawton Childs appointed Bob to the Governor’s Wildfire Response and Mitigation Review Committee following wildfires in 1998, and he represented the Central Florida Region as Emergency Management Co-Chair for Central Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force since 1999. Bob served on the Regional LEPC and on the Joint Toxic Hazard Control Team representing the public surrounding Kennedy Space Center and Canaveral Air Force Station. Bob was instrumental in establishing unity of effort and regionalization of resources within the Central Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force area.

Bob was recognized by the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association in 2003, as the Emergency Management Professional of the Year. In 2012, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Governor’s Hurricane Conference, and received a Distinguished Service Award from the National Hurricane Conference 2004 for outstanding leadership in response to hurricanes Charlie, Frances and Jeanne.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Patti, four (4) children, and several grandchildren.