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## News Release

### IAEM-USA Announces the 2023 Clayton R. Christopher Memorial Award

**Oct. 19, 2023 (Falls Church, Va.)** – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) has selected Kimberly Spill-Cristiano, CEM, for the IAEM-USA 2023 Clayton R. Christopher Memorial Award. The award will be presented at the President’s Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Nov. 8 at the 71<sup>st</sup> IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX in Long Beach, California.

#### **Kimberly Spill-Cristiano, CEM Winner of the IAEM-USA Clayton R. Christopher Memorial Award**

Kimberly, a dedicated and influential figure in the field of emergency management, has made substantial contributions to the South Florida region's preparedness and response efforts. She initiated the City of Pompano Beach's first emergency management program and was crucial in establishing Broward County's inaugural intra-governmental CERT Committee. Her leadership extended to representing emergency management in the South Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force, guiding funding allocation for critical preparedness initiatives.

Kimberly's remarkable leadership was evident in her response to significant incidents, including the 2021 Surfside Building Collapse, 2022 Hurricane Ian, 2023 Texas Operation Lone Star, and 2005 Hurricane Katrina. Her extensive involvement in various emergency management organizations, such as FEMA, FEPA, and IAEM, highlights her commitment to the field. Kimberly's educational background, including a Master's in Homeland Security and defense from the Naval Postgraduate School, underscores her dedication to improving emergency management practices.

Kimberly's influence on South Florida's emergency management community is undeniable. She has garnered the respect and support of her peers through her unwavering dedication to continuously improving emergency management efforts. Her ability to bridge tactical and policy aspects of emergency management, coupled with her collaborative nature, has enhanced the region's ability to address the complex challenges faced in emergency management today and in the future.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions, the Clayton R. Christopher Memorial Award rightfully acknowledges Kimberly as a guiding force in the field of emergency management, laying a strong foundation for its ongoing development and excellence. Her impact on emergency management in South Florida has been invaluable, and she continues to drive the region toward enhanced preparedness and response capabilities to safeguard Broward County's 1.9 million residents.

**The Clayton R. Christopher Memorial Award** recognizes the career achievements of an emergency management director/coordinator at the local level of government for outstanding contributions and commitment to a local emergency management program.

*IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,800 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and others involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters including acts of terrorism. IAEM provides access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance, the Certified Emergency Manager program, annual scholarships, a comprehensive monthly newsletter, and more.*

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