



SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 17-003

BY SENATOR(S) Garcia and Cooke, Aguilar, Coram, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Gardner, Guzman, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Pettersen and Lawrence, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lebsack, Lee, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mitsch Bush, Navarro, Neville P., Nordberg, Rankin, Ransom, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winter, Wist, Young, Duran.

CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF "FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION DAY".

WHEREAS, First responders risk their own safety and personal property in the execution of their duties to protect the public on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, First responders are the first line of defense for the public against threats, both domestic and foreign; and

WHEREAS, Nationally, on average, first responders are injured on the job three times more often than workers in other occupations; and

WHEREAS, Four out of five medics have been injured on the job, more than half (52%) have been assaulted by a patient, and half (50%) have been exposed to an infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, Most emergency medical service personnel deaths in the

line of duty occur in ambulance accidents; and

WHEREAS, Police and firefighters experience workplace injuries four times more often than the national average, most often due to overexertion; and

WHEREAS, First responder deaths constitute five percent of occupational fatalities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, First responders experience high levels of stress and many struggle with mental health issues, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and family members of first responders often develop PTSD as well; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of first responders have made the ultimate sacrifice, including emergency medical services personnel, who have an estimated fatality rate of 12.7 per 100,000 workers, more than twice the national average, and many police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, including three in Colorado in the last year; and

WHEREAS, First responders stand at the ready to come to the aid of the citizens of the United States of America twenty-four hours a day; and

WHEREAS, First responders are a vital part of our communities, not only standing ready to deal with emergencies but also volunteering in our schools and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, Individuals, both career and volunteer, including police, fire, emergency medical services, search and rescue, and other organizations in the public safety sector, come together as a collective to aid the public in the event of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, There are over 1 million firefighters in the United States, and over 750,000 of those are volunteer firefighters; and

WHEREAS, There are over 800,000 emergency medical services personnel in the United States; and

WHEREAS, There are over 750,000 state and local law enforcement officers around the country; and

WHEREAS, Colorado joins the following states in designating September 27 as "First Responder Appreciation Day": Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, The Colorado General Assembly wishes to honor and support all first responders with an annual day of appreciation; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

(1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, designate September 27, 2017, as "First Responder Appreciation Day";

(2) That we recognize and honor all first responders who put their lives on the line daily to serve and protect the people of Colorado; and

(3) That we urge the United States Congress and President Donald J. Trump to declare September 27 National First Responders Appreciation Day to honor all first responders nationwide.

*Be It Further Resolved,* (1) That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent to:

(a) The following organizations: Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police; Colorado Professional Fire Fighters; Colorado Search and Rescue Board; County Sheriffs of Colorado; Colorado State Fire Fighters Association; Colorado State Fire Chiefs; Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado; I Love You Guys Foundation; Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority; National EMS Memorial Service;

(b) The following first responders: Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Training Academy; AirLife Denver; American Medical Response Aurora; American Medical Response Boulder; American Medical Response Canon City; American Medical Response Denver; American Medical Response Golden; American Medical Response Longmont; American Medical Response Pueblo; Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office; Arvada

Fire Protection District; Berthoud Fire Protection District; Big Elk Volunteer Fire Department; Boulder County Sheriff's Office; City of Aurora Fire Department; City of Aurora Police Department; City of Brush Fire Department; City of Colorado Springs Police Department; City of Fort Collins Police Department; City of Lyons Fire Department; City of Wheat Ridge Police Department; Colorado North Central All-Hazards Emergency Management Region; Colorado River Fire Rescue; Colorado Springs Fire Department; Colorado State Patrol; CO-TF1, FEMA Urban Search and Rescue; Crystal Lakes Volunteer Fire Department; Cunningham Fire Protection District; Denver 911 Emergency Communications Center; Denver Fire Department; Denver Health Paramedic All-terrain Medical Unit; Denver Health Paramedic Denver International Airport EMS Team; Denver Health Paramedic Wildland Fire Team; Denver Police Academy; Denver Police Department; Elbert County Sheriff's Office; El Paso County Sheriff's Office; Emergency Department, Medical Center of Aurora; Emergency Medical Services, Denver Health Medical Center; Emergency Medical Services, Swedish Medical Center Denver; Erie Police Department; Estes Park Volunteer Fire Department; Estes Park Police Department; Evergreen Fire/Rescue; First Responder Network Authority; Foothills Fire Department; Fort Morgan Fire Department; Glacier View Fire Protection District; Glen Haven Area Volunteer Fire Department; Golden Police and Fire Dispatch; Grand County EMS; Great Basin Type 1 Incident Management Team; Great Basin Type 2 Incident Management Team; HealthOne Clinic Services EMS and Trauma Unit; Huerfano County Fire Department; Jefferson County Critical Incident Dispatch Team; Jefferson County Regional SWAT; Jefferson County Sheriff's Office; Lafayette Fire Department; Lafayette Police Department; Lakewood Police Department; Larimer County Sheriff's Office; Livermore Fire Protection District; Louisville Fire Department; Louisville Police Department; Loveland Fire Department; Mesa County Sheriff's Office; MetCom 911; Mountain View Fire Department; Mountain View Fire Protection District; North Fork Volunteer Fire Department; O.M.E.G.A.; Park County Sheriff's Office; Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District; Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District - Station 1; Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District - Station 2; Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District - Station 3; Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District - Station 4; Poudre Fire Authority; Pueblo 911 Communications Center; Pueblo City Fire Department; Pueblo West Fire Department; Red Feather Lakes Fire Protection District; Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department; South Metro Fire Rescue; Stadium Medical;

Trauma Program Director, Medical Center of Aurora; Wellington Fire Protection District; West Douglas County Fire Protection District; West Metro Fire Protection District; Westminster Police and Fire Dispatch; Wheat Ridge Fire Department; Wheat Ridge Police and Fire Dispatch; Wiggins Rural Fire Department; and Yarnell Fire Department;

(c) Tim Gregg, Executive Director of National First Responders Appreciation Day; and

(d) President Donald J. Trump and each member of Colorado's congressional delegation.

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Kevin J. Grantham  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Crisanta Duran  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Effie Ameen  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

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Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES