

Submission of National EMS Memorial Foundation to NCMAC on 9/15/14

In the United States there are an estimated 826,111 credentialed EMS professionals at the EMT-Basic, intermediate and paramedic levels (roughly around 30 professional EMS responders per every 10,000 people). Emergency Medical services personnel respond to over 37 million emergency calls annually. EMS personnel are the first to respond to an emergency, whether it involves a medical emergency, natural disaster, acts of terrorism, fire, spill of hazardous materials, industrial or transportation accidents. These EMS providers serve a total of 21,283 credentialed EMS agencies on the Federal, State, Tribal and local levels through both paid and volunteer service.

Every day these emergency medical technicians and paramedics leave their loved ones at home and respond to help people they have never met. Some will never return home. Each year in this nation dozens of EMS providers are killed in the line of duty. These men and women give everything so “that others might live”.

Work-related injury and fatality rates among US paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are higher than the national average for all occupations. Data from the Department of Labor show that EMTs and paramedics have a rate of injury that is about three times the national average for all occupations. The vast majority of fatalities are secondary to transportation related-incidents. Assaults are also identified as a significant cause of fatality.

Emergency Medical services is considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States; recent statistics show that EMTs and Paramedics are two times more likely to suffer a line of duty death than any other profession.

In 2007 the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation (NEMSMF) was founded to establish a permanent memorial to the commitment and ultimate sacrifice of EMS providers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The Foundation evolved into a national network of EMS providers, survivors of EMS line of duty fatalities and private citizens committed to this common goal.

On May 14, 2014 Congressman Stephan Lynch introduced H.R. 4690 in the 113th Congress. H.R. 4690 would authorize the NEMSMF as the sponsor group of the National EMS Memorial.

The Foundation looks to establish this Memorial in Washington DC for several reasons beyond the prominent location. EMS is a national enterprise that is supported on a state level and executed on a local level. Washington DC exemplifies the confluence of national efforts that operate across the various levels of government here in the United States in our combined efforts to secure the nation and ensure domestic tranquility for its citizens. These combined efforts are mirrored in the pursuits of the Foundation to establish a fitting memorial. State legislative initiatives are underway, notably the recently successful passage

of AJR 48 in the California Assembly, to engage the States through local grass root efforts in this national cause.

Representatives from Congressman Stephan Lynch's office, the NEMSMF, and from EMS organized labor will be present at this meeting to provide oral or written testimony and to answer any questions that the National Capital Memorial Commission may have.

On behalf of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation I would like to thank you for your continued public service and remain available for any issues or questions that may arise.