



NATIONAL
EMS MEMORIAL
FOUNDATION

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Legislation Update for National EMS Week 2016

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In his Presidential Proclamation for National EMS Week 2016, President Obama stated that “EMS providers brave danger and uncertainty, and their efforts deserve our most profound appreciation. We rarely know when tragedy will strike, and in our most vulnerable moments, we rely on these dedicated professionals. During Emergency Medical Services Week, let us celebrate and support the EMS professionals who demonstrate the values at the heart of the American spirit, and let us thank them for their heroic work.”

The National EMS Memorial Foundation continues its work to honor and memorialize EMS workers who suffer a line of duty death in the course of their daily work serving in communities across this great nation. Emergency Medical services is considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States, with recent statistics showing that EMTs and Paramedics experience an injury rate of virtually 100 percent during the course of their careers and are two times more likely to suffer a line of duty death than any other profession. Every day, emergency medical technicians and paramedics leave their loved ones at home and head out to help people they have never met. Some will never return. Each year in America, dozens of EMS providers are killed in the line of duty. These men and women give everything so “that others might live”. It is time for our nation to honor and memorialize these enduring sacrifices.

In alignment with the Commemorative Works Act of 1986, legislation has been introduced into both houses of Congress. These Bills would authorize the National EMS Memorial Foundation to continue the collaborative process necessary to complete this project under the requirements of the Commemorative Works Act. On May 12, 2015, Congressman Lynch [D-MA] introduced bill H. R. 2274 into the U.S House of Representatives. Co-sponsored by Peter King [R-NY], House Resolution 2274 was referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands. On March 3, 2016 Senator Christopher Coons [D-DE] introduced bill S. 2628 into the U.S. Senate. Co-sponsored by Kelly Ayotte [R-NH], S.2628 was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. On March 17, 2016, National Park Service Deputy Director Peggy O’Dell testified that the National Parks Service supports Senate Bill 2628 during the hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resource committee/ National Parks subcommittee. Furthermore, The National EMS Memorial Foundation has already completed the process required to achieve approval from the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission.

The National EMS Memorial Foundation calls upon everyone in the US to contact their congressional representatives to voice their support for these two pieces of Legislation. It is important to note that this bipartisan effort will have no Federal Funds (taxpayer money) used to build or maintain the EMS Memorial. Congress needs to hear from their constituents. While public safety officers from law enforcement and the fire service have been recognized for their sacrifice with national memorials, the men and women of EMS have gone without recognition for too long. EMS providers should be able to rely on America to never forget their ongoing commitment and service to their country and to remember the ultimate sacrifice already made by more than 650 members of the nation's EMS, their families and their loved ones.

Executive Director for the National EMS Memorial Foundation, Katie Orsino commented that "EMS Week provides an excellent opportunity for the EMS community to actively participate in establishing the National EMS Memorial in Washington DC."

It will take you just a few minutes to contact your elected representatives in Congress, but the impact of doing so can be felt for generations to come.

[U.S. Senators](#) - Contact information for your senators in the U.S. Senate.

[U.S. Representatives](#) - Contact information for your representative in the U.S. House of Representatives.

It is time to remember

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About the National EMS Memorial Foundation

The sole purpose of the National EMS Memorial Foundation (NEMSMF) is to design, build and maintain a permanent EMS memorial in Washington DC or its environs, to honor and recognize the commitment, service and sacrifice of the men and women of EMS across our nation, who have made the ultimate sacrifice and for those who continue to serve.