



NATIONAL EMS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Commitment, Service & Sacrifice

News Release

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EMS Memorial Bill receives National Park Service Support during Senate Subcommittee Hearing.



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WASHINGTON DC– The Senate Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on Wednesday, February 14, 2017 to consider pending legislative issues including Senate bill S.1692 “*National Emergency Medical Services Commemorative Work Act*” which would authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work on federal land to pay tribute to the commitment, service, and sacrifice represented by emergency medical services (EMS).

Deputy Director P. Daniel Smith voiced the support of the National Park Service for S.1692 among the 23 bills under consideration by the Subcommittee. The support and assistance of the National Park Service is critical to the effort to establish a national memorial. This hearing represents a significant milestone in that effort.



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S.1692, and its companion bill H.R. 1037, were crafted and introduced under the bipartisan leadership of the many members of the U.S. Congress who support the Nation's first responders.

"During my time as New Castle County Executive, I worked to make sure that our EMS personnel were well-trained, responsive professionals," said **Senator Christopher Coons, (D-DE)**. "It was not only about the delivery of high-quality government services, but a matter of life and death for our community members. First responders' steadfast commitment to others, at a moment's notice and despite risk, exemplifies the finest traditions of American spirit. Thus, a memorial commemorating the service of EMS professionals is well-deserved."

"First responders put so much on the line to serve their communities," **Senator Shelly Moore Capito, (R-WV)** said. "From devastating disasters like last year's floods in West Virginia to daily acts that make a world of difference for a single person, these brave men and women work tirelessly and selflessly to improve and save lives. While we may not be able to repay first responders for all that they do, we can certainly honor their service and sacrifice through a national memorial. The *National Emergency Medical Services Commemorative Work Act* will help make that possible, and I am proud to join my colleagues in introducing this bipartisan legislation."

"Given all that first responders have done for our country, I think it's more than fitting that we build a memorial in their honor," said **Senator Thomas Cotton R- AR)**. "It will stand as a testament to their sacrifices and remind us all how much we owe to these brave men and women."

"Every day first responders disregard risks and put their lives on the line to protect our communities and our country," said **Senator Bill Cassidy, (R-LA)** "Creating a commemorative work will allow us, as a nation, to honor our first responders."

"New Hampshire's first responders work tirelessly every day to make sure Granite State communities and families are safe," **said Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)**. "Our EMS personnel are also critical in the fight to combat the opioid epidemic and do an extraordinary job of quickly getting to individuals and saving lives. A National EMS memorial is a well-deserved recognition of EMS professional's sacrifices."

"Hundreds of thousands of EMS workers put their lives on the line every day, serving families all over this country," **said Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)**. "They rush headfirst toward dangerous conditions to help people who urgently need care and to save lives. We owe them our deepest respect and sincerest thanks for their selfless service."

"Every day, Americans continue to rely on the enduring ideals of commitment, service, and sacrifice embraced by the nation's emergency medical service providers," **says Katie Orsino, Executive Director of the National EMS Memorial Foundation**. "These same providers should be able to rely on us as a nation to remember this ongoing commitment and service to our country and the ultimate sacrifice already made by more than 650 members of the nation's EMS personnel."