



First Response Coalition Celebrates Inaugural “National First Responder Appreciation Day” on Capitol Hill

FRC urges Congress to pass H.Res.592 as Rep. Steve Cohen and national organizations honor America’s “hometown heroes”

Washington, D.C. – September 25, 2007: Members of Congress, public safety representatives and national supporting organizations joined the First Response Coalition (FRC – www.FirstResponseCoalition.org) on the first annual “National First Responder Appreciation Day” to thank the country’s first responders for their contributions, sacrifices and dedication to public service. In a Capitol Hill event, the FRC called on the House of Representatives to pass H.Res.592, the “National First Responder Appreciation Day” resolution and finally give first responders their national day of honor.

“Today, we stand in recognition of the heroism, bravery, and compassion exhibited by America’s first responders. We urge the House to follow the Senate’s lead in passing a resolution recognizing September 25th as ‘National First Responder Appreciation Day,’” said Steven Jones, Executive Director of the FRC.

Representative Steve Cohen (TN – 9th) joined the FRC in urging the House to pass H.Res.592, and discussed his plans to support returning war veterans in their pursuit of a career in public safety. He intends to introduce legislation to provide funding to cities, counties, and states to train and pay the first year’s salaries of veterans of Iraq and/or Afghanistan who pursue a career in the emergency services.

The FRC chose September 25th as “National First Responder Appreciation Day” as it was in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks that the full magnitude of the contributions and sacrifices made by first responders received national attention. In the wake of other, more recent national tragedies- including Hurricane Katrina, the Virginia Tech school shootings, and the Minneapolis bridge collapse- Americans have praised their local firefighters, police officers and emergency medical professionals as “hometown heroes.” “National First Responder Appreciation Day” honors the millions of first responders for their dedication while acknowledging the critical service they provide everyday in protecting our communities.

The FRC’s effort to honor first responders has resonated across the nation, with initiatives to establish September 25th as a day of recognition launched at the local, state, and federal level. Pennsylvania state senator Lisa Baker introduced a resolution to establish September 25, 2007 as “Pennsylvania First Responder Recognition Day.” The communities of Weatherford and Bedford, in Texas, both issued proclamations commemorating September 25th and thanking their local first responders. The FRC continues to work with other cities and states to build grassroots support for a national day of recognition.

Nearly 40 concerned organizations, including the Points of Light Foundation, Salvation Army, United Way of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars and numerous public safety organizations, have endorsed the campaign, and over 6,000 people have signed the FRC’s petition calling for a national day of recognition.

Since December 2006, the FRC has led a grassroots effort urging Congress to formally recognize and honor the men and women of the emergency services by designating September 25th “National First Responder Appreciation Day.” In June, the U.S. Senate passed an FRC-conceived resolution (S.Res.215) with a bipartisan show of support for the men and women of the emergency services. Over 30 Senators, including presidential hopefuls John McCain (AZ) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (NY), cosponsored the resolution. H.Res.592 has been placed on the legislative calendar, but House leaders have yet to schedule it for a vote.

Visit www.FirstResponseCoalition.org to learn more about the FRC’s campaign for a “National First Responder Appreciation Day” **or contact Steven Jones at 202-263-2904 or sjones@FirstResponseCoalition.org.**

About the FRC

The FRC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that consists of tens of thousands of concerned citizens and first responders, as well as numerous advocacy groups, promoting the needs of America’s emergency response community. The FRC is a nationally recognized leader on public safety issues and has been profiled in *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*, and featured on *CNN*.

“National First Responder Appreciation Day” is sponsored by:



Supporting organizations include:

Advocates for EMS
All Hazards Consortium
American Academy of Urgent Care Medicine
American Corn Growers Association
American Legislative Exchange Council
American Public Health Association
American Radio Relay League
Association of Air Medical Services
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