

Sept. 27, 2015

SENATOR, COMMISSIONER, CLERGY, INVITED GUESTS, FIREFIGHTERS AND FRIENDS.

WE ARE HERE TODAY TO HONOR THOSE FIREFIGHTERS WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY. THIS YEAR WE HAVE THE MISFORTUNE OF LOSING FOUR VERY DEDICATED AND COURAGEOUS FIREFIGHTERS. WE WILL BE HONORING THEM LATER IN THE SERVICE.

FIREFIGHTERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES MAKE SELFLESS AND COURAGEOUS CONTRIBUTIONS EACH AND EVERY DAY. TODAY'S MEMORIAL SERVICE REFLECTS UPON THEIR SACRIFICES.

THE DAILY EFFORTS OF OUR FIREFIGHTERS, BOTH PAID AND NON-PAID, IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE PROTECTION OF THE CITIZENS OF OUR STATE. THE LOSS OF A FIREFIGHTER FILLS US ALL WITH A PROFOUND SENSE OF TRAGEDY AND PERSONAL SADNESS.

THIS MEMORIAL HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HEARTS OF OUR FIREFIGHTERS AND THE CITIZENS OF CONNECTICUT. IT'S A CONSTANT REMINDER OF THE SACRIFICES OUR FIREFIGHTERS MAKE.

TODAY WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND SHOW OUR GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION FOR A JOB WELL DONE. WE ALSO SHOW SUPPORT FOR THEIR FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES, WHO KNOW ALL TOO WELL THE RISKS OF FIREFIGHTERS. THEY ARE FOREVER REMEMBERED FOR THEIR HIGH LEVEL OF DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT IN SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES.

WE SHOULD ALWAYS BE THANKFUL TO OUR FIREFIGHTERS FOR THEIR COURAGE AND DEDICATION AND LET US NEVER FORGET THOSE WHO HAVE PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.

I WANT TO THANK MY COMMITTEE FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND HARD WORK IN MAKING THIS MEMORIAL SERVICE POSSIBLE EACH YEAR. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK KELLY ANN CLARK FOR SINGING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM. GREAT JOB.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TODAY AND BEING PART OF OUR 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE. DON'T FORGET TO STOP AT OUR MEMORABILIA TABLE JUST INSIDE THE DOOR OF THE ACADEMY.

THANK YOU.