

"TURNING THOSE IN CRISIS TOWARD CHRIST"

Emergency Chaplains

APRIL 2023



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US

By: *Ralph Thompson, Executive Director*

April and May are the months that First Responders across the USA are celebrated and remembered.

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week (9-1-1 Week) gets the party started on April 9th. National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend is May 6-7. Festivities for National Police Week begin on May 14 and National EMS Week follows on May 21.



In addition to all of the national events, there are similar big events in most every state. Here in North Carolina, we will meet in Raleigh on May 2 to observe the NC Peace Officers' Memorial Day Ceremony. The annual NC Fallen Firefighters Memorial is scheduled for May 12-13. As part of the weekend of celebrating and remembering firefighters, the big fire truck parade through the streets of Raleigh is scheduled for that Saturday, May 13.

So, why do we have these weeklong celebrations and memorial services every year? I believe there are two primary reasons for the hoopla. First, our First Responders...those law enforcement officers, firefighters, medics, and communicators are extremely important to all of us. They make up what we know as "Public Safety".

My safety and the safety of my family is pretty doggone important to me. I'll bet you feel the same way. For that reason alone, I want to let every First Responder know that they are valued and appreciated.

Second, working in the field of Public Safety takes a toll on everyone that serves. I'll talk about the memorials in a minute but allow me to focus on the burden that every First Responder carries.

When someone takes on the role of an officer, firefighter, medic, or communicator, they take on the burdens that you and I can't cover on our own. Every First Responder willingly signed up for the job...knowing that it would be a costly endeavor.

What's the cost? Every First Responder bears the cost for doing their job in these two categories: Time and Heartache.

Time: Somebody has to work nights, weekends, and holidays. In order to be fair, schedules rotate...so everybody gets an opportunity to miss important life events. Let's not even mention things like long hours and mandatory overtime due to staffing shortages.

Heartache: If you ask a First Responder why they are in their line of work, I can almost guarantee that you will hear them say something about "helping people". It's a noble calling...but then you get to experience "people". They do horrible things to each other. They do horrible things to themselves. You can't erase the sights, sounds, or even smells that come from trying to help people in a sin cursed world. The heartache is real.

For these two reasons, we need to celebrate and love on our First Responders. We need them, and we depend on them. Your world would be in a "world of hurt" if it were not for the brave men and women serving as First Responders.

In addition to honoring our First Responders, we also need to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives while serving. For every individual that died in the line of duty, there are multiple family members grieving their loss. Their grief never goes away. They will always remember the price they paid through the death of their loved one. Those who grieve need our support. We are indebted to them. That's why we gather for these memorial services each year. We need to be reminded on a regular basis to take care of those who paid such a great price.

I hope that you will join us in honoring and remembering First Responders over these next couple of months, and I pray that you will be encouraged to make it a standard practice year-round!

**Emergency Chaplains | PO Box 14762 | RTP, NC 27709
919.399.9468 | Office@EChap.org | EChap.org**

Emergency Chaplains is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization | Federal EIN: 26-2121418 | NC Solicitation License Number: SL009161

CELEBRATIONS AND MEMORIALS

National Public Safety
Telecommunications Week
(9-1-1 Week)

April 9-15

www.npstw.org

National Fallen Firefighters
Memorial Weekend

May 6-7

www.firehero.org

National Police Week

May 14-20

www.nleomf.org
www.policeweek.org

38th Annual
NC Peace Officers'
Memorial Day Ceremony

May 2 @ 10:00am

The Shepherd's Church
6051 Tryon Rd | Cary, NC

National EMS Week

May 21-27

www.EMSweek.org

NC Fallen
Firefighters Foundation

May 12

10:00am—Apparatus Parade
1:00pm—Memorial Service
Nash Square—Raleigh

www.NCFFF.org

IDEAS FOR SHOWING APPRECIATION TO FIRST RESPONDERS

- Find out when local agencies have their own memorial services and attend.
- Write notes of appreciation for First Responders. Mail or hand deliver to the station.
- Keep a list of names of First Responders that you know. Ask your pastor if he knows the names of any that attend your church. Pray for them...by name...on a regular basis. Send notes of encouragement.
- Pound the pantry or make food baskets. Best food is individually wrapped.
- Buy a box lunch for everyone on duty. Include a handwritten note of appreciation in each box.
- If you really want to make an impact, consider adopting a station and commit to serving them for a full year. You could provide snacks or meals on a regular basis, systematically meeting and serving every individual that works there. The only way you can do this is by pre-arranging this with someone in leadership. If you need tips or our assistance in making a connection like this, give us a call and let us help you!
- Pay for First Responders meals when you see them in a restaurant.

NC CHAPLAIN DATABASE — EChap.org/roster

Emergency Chaplains is in the process of building a database of public safety chaplains serving in North Carolina. We are currently surveying agencies across the state for chaplain information that can be included in our directory.

Once compiled, this chaplain directory will include those who serve law enforcement agencies, fire departments, EMS agencies, and 911 centers. If you are part of a public safety agency and would like to list your chaplain(s) in our database, you can enter their information online at EChap.org/roster. Chaplains, you can add yourself by using the same link. (NOTE: if you are a healthcare chaplain, jail or prison chaplain, or disaster relief chaplain, you can add yourself to those databases using the same link.)

If you have questions, or need more information regarding our NC Chaplain Database, you can text, call, or email Chaplain Ralph, (919) 280-8908 or Ralph@EChap.org

PARTNERING WITH EMERGENCY CHAPLAINS

Join the EChap Prayer Team. Pray for our First Responders, Public Safety Agencies, and our Chaplains.
EChap.org/pray

Prayerfully consider becoming a chaplain. The need is growing. We can provide the training.
EChap.org/training

Give monthly to Emergency Chaplains. Keep us on the field to serve First Responders and citizens in crisis.
EChap.org/donate

EChap.org