

Dr. Burgess Weekly Address September 15, 2017 Supporting Emergency Responders

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

It's hard to believe it's been 16 years, but this past Monday did marked the 16th anniversary of the September 11th terror attacks. Each year at this time, we pause and reflect on the many losses our country sustained in New York, Virginia, and rural Pennsylvania. Not only do we remember all the friends and neighbors we lost on 9/11, but also the many first responders that answered calls for help in the midst of chaos after the attacks. In particular, I am reminded of firefighters' willingness to run toward danger to help anyone in harm's way.

Firefighters often sacrifice their own personal safety and comfort to serve others, and it is important that we support them however we can. This week, the House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 931, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2017. This bill will authorize funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to create a national registry for the collection of data pertaining to cancer incidence amongst firefighters.

In 2015, a five year study of nearly 30,000 fire fighters found that firefighters had a greater number of cancer diagnoses and cancer-related deaths than the general population. This national Firefighter Cancer Registry Act will fill the void in our understanding of the health risks our firefighters face, and better prepare us to care for them.

Across our country, firefighters answer the call whenever our families and our communities are in need. Firefighters play an integral role in keeping our families and communities safe, and this bill will help us better understand these cancers so that we can take care of the brave men and women who serve our communities.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your concerns on this issue or any issue. May God bless you and your family, may God bless the United States, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.