

providing such services FIRE, RESCUE, OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSON and in the event that the disability prevents the volunteer from pursuing the volunteer's normal occupation and that the disability is of a permanent nature as certified by the State Workers' Compensation Commission or other competent medical authority as designated by the County Commissioners, then the volunteer is entitled to receive the benefits prescribed in Subsection B of this section and any other benefits, regardless of age or length of service. These benefits shall begin on the first day of the first month following the establishment of the permanency of the disability.

E. In the event that a qualified volunteer who has completed a minimum of 25 years of certified active volunteer service with any Charles County Volunteer Fire Company, [or] Volunteer Rescue Squad, VOLUNTEER MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT, OR VOLUNTEER DIVE RESCUE UNIT or combination thereof, shall become permanently and totally disabled, for any reason, and such disability is certified by the State Workers' Compensation Commission, or its successor agency, or other competent medical authority designated by the County Commissioners, then that volunteer shall be entitled to receive benefits earned as provided under Subsections B and C of this section, regardless of age. These benefits shall begin in the month following certification of disability.

F. In the event that any qualified volunteer shall die while receiving benefits, then the surviving spouse is entitled to benefits equal to 75% of the volunteer's benefits. This rate applies to any person who is receiving benefits on or before July 1, 1989, as well as to any person who begins to receive benefits after July 1, 1989. These benefits shall terminate upon death or remarriage of the spouse.

G. In the event that a qualified volunteer dies prior to receiving any benefits under this section, the surviving spouse is entitled to benefits equal to 75% of the benefits earned by the deceased volunteer. This rate applies to any person who is receiving benefits on or before July 1, 1989, as well as to any person who begins to receive benefits after July 1, 1989. These benefits shall terminate upon death or remarriage. A "qualified volunteer" is defined as:

- (1) One who has completed 25 years of certified service; or
- (2) One who is receiving benefits under Subsection I of this section.

H. When a qualified volunteer dies, a death benefit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.) shall be paid to the volunteer's designated beneficiary.

I. In the event that any active volunteer [fireman or squadman], herein defined as one who has had at least two (2) years of qualifying service in the five (5) preceding years, attains the age of seventy (70) years and fails to achieve the required twenty-five (25) years of service, then the volunteer is entitled to a monthly benefit of the number of years of certified service completed multiplied by four dollars (\$4.). These benefits shall be payable in the normal manner.

J. When an unqualified volunteer is killed in the line of duty during the course of service as a member of a fire, emergency medical service, or specialized rescue unit or dies having completed at least one (1) year of length of service award