

WHEREAS, The fire and emergency services is considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Fire and emergency services personnel respond to over 16 million emergency calls annually, without reservation and with little regard for their personal safety; and

WHEREAS, Fire and emergency services personnel are the first to respond to an emergency, whether it involves a fire, medical emergency, spill of hazardous materials, natural disaster, act of terrorism, or transportation accident; and

WHEREAS, Approximately one-third of all active fire and emergency personnel suffer debilitating injuries annually; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 100 fire and emergency services personnel die annually in the line of duty; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That each year, the American flags and the Maryland State flags on all State office buildings shall be lowered to half-staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Signed May 16, 2002.

Joint Resolution No. 24

(House Joint Resolution No. 15)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Maryland's Salute to the Services

FOR the purpose of designating May ~~18~~, 19, 2002 through June 14, 2002 as Maryland's "Salute to the Services".

WHEREAS, Maryland's military, fire and emergency services, police, and hazardous materials safety personnel make extraordinary contributions for the protection of the lives and property of the State's citizens; and

WHEREAS, These individuals provide services without reservation and at great risk to their personal safety; and

WHEREAS, These individuals devote countless hours to required training and preparation which results in the regular disruption of family life; and