



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

## NEWS from Fire Fighters

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### *IAFF Statement*

## **Senator Edward Kennedy's Strength and Spirit Will Overcome Latest Health Challenge**

Washington, DC – *International Association of Fire Fighters General President Harold Schaitberger issued this statement today following the announcement that U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor:*

“Senator Kennedy, my friend for over 30 years, an unmatched champion for this union and for workers across America, has seen his share of challenges. While this latest will be one of his toughest fights yet, he has the courage, will and stamina to prevail once again.

“I’ve personally spoken with his family and have relayed to them our union’s sincerest support for the recovery of a true giant in the fight for the principle that all Americans deserve decent wages and a safe place to work.

“I have heard some of the news commentary and have been appalled to see and hear people writing his obituary, political or otherwise. We will not count Senator Kennedy out. It will be tough, no doubt, but Senator Kennedy is a fighter with an unparalleled will.

“Just last week I had the privilege of working with Senator Kennedy, as he battled relentlessly on behalf of fire fighters across the country. I can honestly say that he was as tough and spirited as ever in his quest to win the rights our members deserve and that says much about his vigor and ability to fight going forward.

“He will be back on the floor of the United States Senate, and we will be there to thank him for once again winning a tough, tough battle and for being there to fight for working families for years to come.”

*The IAFF is the world's largest fire fighters union, representing 288,000 fire fighters and emergency medical professionals across the United States and Canada.*

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