[LOCAL HEADER]

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **Contact:** [Local contact / email]
May XX, 2022

**[Local Name] Honors EMS Personnel Amid Historic Challenges**

*EMS Week is a time to recognize and celebrate emergency responders serving on the frontlines against civil unrest/assaults, the ongoing opioid epidemic, and the COVID-19 pandemic.*

From May 15-22, as part of EMS Week, **[local name]** will highlight the important role emergency medical service (EMS) providers play in keeping our communities safe, particularly during these challenging times.

Trained to respond to any emergency, EMS personnel have faced the added challenges of working on the frontlines in times of civil unrest, on-the-job attacks and widespread opioid abuse.

This additional stress can take a heavy toll on EMS workers, both physically and mentally, and the **[local name]** is committed to honoring their work and keeping them safe. EMS Week will highlight several IAFF resources dedicated to the health of our members, including fitness, nutrition and behavioral health.

**[Use a version of this quote or create your own] -- “[Community name]** fire fighters and paramedics are always ready to respond swiftly to any emergency, even during a worldwide health crisis,” says **[local president]**.“We owe them our appreciation for their commitment to keeping our community safe, and we should do all we can to help them stay safe on the job.”

Throughout the week, the **[local name]** will recognize the services and sacrifices of our EMS members to further raise public awareness of the critical role of EMS in the community.

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