[LOCAL HEADER]

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **Contact:**
May 16, 2021  **[Local President (xxx xxx-xxxx]**

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

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

From May 16-22, 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 the middle of an historic pandemic, 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 the deadly COVID-19 pandemic,” 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 remember the members who lost their lives to COVID-19, as well as highlight the role EMS providers have played protecting communities and address the impact of the pandemic and other events on the behavioral health of EMS personnel.

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