



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

NEWS from Fire Fighters

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Vice President Joe Biden and Other Influential Officials to Address Fire Fighters

Powerful Fire Fighters Union Urges Action on Collective Bargaining, Mental Health and Extending the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund

NEWS BUREAU ALERT:

Fire fighters from every major market will be available to help add local insight to this story.

Washington, DC – Nearly 800 fire fighter leaders from across the United States will gather in the Nation's Capital next week on March 11 and 12 to make their voices heard on important issues, including fire fighter mental health, funding the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund and collective bargaining.

March 11 will feature a slate of influential Washington, DC, officials (see below) whose decisions impact the safety and working conditions of professional fire fighters. Speakers begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency.

Vice President Biden will address fire fighters on Tuesday, March 12 at 9:00 a.m. with an introduction from his wife, Dr. Jill Biden. (Press setup Tuesday is at 7:30 a.m.).

Later that morning, fire fighter leaders from throughout the United States will visit with members of Congress to encourage support on these important issues.

Professional fire fighters face expanding threats to their own safety and well-being as they continue to protect communities. Fire fighters need lawmakers' help battling the scourges of cancer, post-traumatic stress and other behavioral health issues, and they need Congress to give them a greater voice in public safety decisions.

Among the issues supported by fire fighters are:

- The Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act, which would give public safety officers the basic ability to collectively bargain with their employees on issues affecting their work conditions and public safety.
- Extending the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund Act to provide for those fire fighters battling 9/11 cancers and other illnesses.
- The Helping Emergency Responders Overcome (HERO) Act, which would help address the growing challenge of post-traumatic stress and other behavioral health challenges in the fire service.

The union's legislative conference has long been the cornerstone of the IAFF's legislative efforts. The IAFF has won many significant victories over the years due in large measure to the work local IAFF leaders have done at this conference.

The IAFF's political action committee, FIREPAC, is in the top one-half of one percent of federal PACs in the nation, and the support of gold and black clad IAFF members is sought by candidates at all levels as they run for office.

IAFF Legislative Conference Agenda

(This preliminary schedule is subject to change and is not for publication.)

Monday, March 11, 2019 (Beginning at 9:00am)

IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger
U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao
Governor John Carney, Delaware
Governor Mike Parson, Missouri
Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, New York
Senator Tina Smith, Minnesota
House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Maryland
Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, Robert C. Scott, Virginia
Representative Ami Bera, California
Representative Daniel Kildee, Michigan
Representative Brian Fitzpatrick, Pennsylvania
Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, Burnsville, Minnesota
Mayor Francis Suarez, Miami, Florida
Mayor Bill Carpenter, Brockton, Massachusetts

Tuesday, March 12 (beginning at 9:00 a.m. – press set up at 7:30 a.m.)

Vice President Joe Biden
Dr. Jill Biden

MEDIA MUST BE CREDENTIALLED FOR TUESDAY
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