



March 12, 2020

RE: COVID-19 as it relates to the National EMS Memorial Service and Weekend of Honor

Thank you to the hundreds of individuals and organizations who attend and support the National EMS Memorial Service and the Weekend of Honor each year. We fully recognize the weight of this commitment in everyday times and especially value this considering the current world-wide situation surrounding coronavirus or COVID-19. Our hearts go out to those impacted and we pay tribute to the first responders assisting in the care of all affected.

We realize there are many questions regarding how COVID-19 may affect the Weekend of Honor currently set for May 15-17, 2020 at the Gaylord National Harbor. First, we want to reinforce how seriously we take our commitment to lead the EMS industry in honor and to provide a safe and healing environment for all who attend the National EMS Memorial Service and the Weekend of Honor. We have been continually assessing the rapidly changing information and trusted recommendations regarding COVID-19 and recognize the dynamic environment we are all trying to navigate both in response to and with regards to travel, gatherings etc. To underscore this, we wanted to share the discussions and actions we are taking.

We are fully engaged in the daily, if not hourly updates and recommendations related to coronavirus or COVID-19. Recognizing that this situation is very fluid, and our event is still 2 months away, we continue to balance decisions. Having said that, at this point we have chosen not to change our plans for the Service though the decision remains subject to the fluidity of the situation as it evolves over the coming weeks. While we understand and support the CDC and other guidelines related to travel restrictions and social distancing, we are respectfully asking people not to cancel Weekend of Honor plans especially pre-booked travel at this time. We make this request simply so that in the event we have to re-schedule the Weekend, it can be done so in an orderly fashion. Canceling pre-paid travel without a plan for rescheduling the event will most likely lead to additional costs to rebook. We are grateful to the airlines and hotels who are waiving change fees should it become necessary for us to reschedule our event.

We are in contact with officials at the Gaylord, who also take this situation very seriously. We are discussing the most prudent options moving forward, especially as we get closer to our scheduled dates. We recognize that many of our constituents are intimately involved with our nation's response to this situation. We continue to review information daily and remain engaged with our many collaborators including our partners at the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride and the National EMS Memorial Foundation on best next steps.

Finally, we remain steadfast in our commitment to honor and remember those men and women of America's Emergency Medical Services who have given their lives in the line-of-duty, and to recognize the sacrifice they have made in service to their communities and fellow man. We look forward to doing so in the most mindful and responsible manner, always endeavoring to be helpful and healing. The latest updates will be provided on our website and social media platforms as we move forward in this process. We appreciate your patience as we navigate this period of uncertainty together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jana Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Jana Williams

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