2022 National EMS Weekend of Honor Overview
72 EMS Fallen to be Honored During the National EMS Weekend of Honor

The National EMS Memorial Bike Ride and the National EMS Memorial Service will pay tribute to 72 EMS and air medical fallen from 26 states across the U.S. during the 2022 National EMS Weekend of Honor. It is scheduled July 22-24 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport, in Arlington, Va.

In addition to this marquee weekend, a multi-state procession of this year’s temporary National EMS Memorial, known as the Tree of Life, occurs beforehand. The procession of this year’s installment commences in Dallas, TX progressing to Arlington, VA. The ceremonial drive will take place over the course of several days leading into the Weekend of Honor. Additional information about that experience dubbed “Moving Honors,” including a route map, planned stops and viewing opportunities will be posted at www.national-ems-memorial.org. It is expected that the Moving Honors will be met by the National EMS Memorial Bike Riders just outside of Arlington, VA and then travel into the Hyatt to launch the EMS Weekend of Honor Friday afternoon.

About

The National EMS Weekend of Honor is possible through the work of hundreds of volunteers and private donors and is organized and hosted by the following non-profit organizations:

- National EMS Memorial Bike Ride- whose mission is to honor EMS personnel by organizing and implementing long distance cycling events that memorialize and celebrate the lives of those who serve every day, those who have become sick or injured while performing their duties, and those who have died in the line of duty. www.NEMSMBR.org.

- National EMS Memorial Service- whose mission is to honor those in EMS from air and ground who have made the Ultimate Sacrifice having died in the line of duty and is the organization that is congressionally sanctioned to conduct the annual service. www.national-ems-memorial.org.

The Weekend of Honor organizers continue to salute the tireless work of their colleagues at the National EMS Memorial Foundation- whose mission is to build the National EMS Memorial in Washington, D.C. that will commemorate the ongoing commitment, service and sacrifice of the Nation’s Emergency Medical Services providers killed, injured, or disabled in the line of duty and for all those that continue to serve. www.emsmemorial.org.
We understand that the Weekend of Honor may be emotional for anyone attending. Grief professionals, Chaplains, Peer Support Team members, Licensed Clinical providers (including EMDR), therapy animals, and Child Life Specialists will be available to provide additional support.

Events venue and hotel

**Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport**
2799 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202
(703) 418-1234

Recommended arrival at the hotel is Thursday and departure after 12:00 noon on Sunday. A room block and special rate is available. The following code or link must be utilized to reserve rooms under the National EMS Memorial Service hotel room block:

**GROUP CODE = G-PQKE**

**Moving Honors**
Runs from Monday, July 11-Thursday July 21, from Dallas, TX to Arlington, VA. (Further Moving Honors details can be found at [www.national-ems-memorial.org](http://www.national-ems-memorial.org).)

**Weekend of Honor Events (chronological)**

**Friday, July 22**

Event 1: Line-of-Duty Death Professional Education Seminar
Location: Hyatt-Roosevelt, 3rd floor
Time: 9AM-3:00PM (0900-1500)
Attendees: First responders
Attire: Class B uniforms, business casual
Details: The NEMSMS’s annual Line-of-Duty Death Seminar is open to all First Responders who serve in EMS, Air Medical, Fire Service, or Law Enforcement. EMS chaplains and other support personnel are also invited to participate. It is offered at no cost to participants. The course is held on-site at the hotel and registrants will be provided further information once registered. Registration is required and can be completed at [www.national-ems-memorial.org](http://www.national-ems-memorial.org).

Event 2: National EMS Memorial Service registration
Location: Hyatt-Independence Level, outside Capital Room
Time: 12PM-4PM (1200-1600) and 7-9PM (1900-2100)
Attendees: Honoree family members, honoree agency members, Honor Guard members, speakers, agency escorts, presenters, volunteers, etc.
Attire: Casual
Details: Weekend of Honor attendees are asked to check in at the registration area. This is the place where you can pick up name badges, ensure guests are registered for all applicable events, gather information, etc. Volunteers are available to help with wayfinding and to answer questions. The gift shop is also co-located in this area.
Event 3: National EMS Memorial Gift Shop open
Location: Hyatt-Capital Room, Independence Level
Time: 12PM-4PM (1200-1600) and 7-9PM (1900-2100)
Attendees: Open to anyone
Attire: As you are
Details: The NEMSMS gift shop is only open during the Weekend of Honor. It offers special T-shirts with this year’s honorees names, other logo wear, challenge coins, and specialty items for sale. Proceeds from gift shop sales go towards funding the Weekend.

Event 4: Weekend of Honor- Honor Guard Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
Location: Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
Time: The changing of the guard will take place at 11:00 AM and wreath laying ceremony will be conducted at 11:15 AM.
Attendees: All EMS personnel and family members are encouraged to attend; open to the public
Attire: It will be warm so dress accordingly in business casual or Class A uniforms for EMS personnel.
Details: Four National EMS Memorial Service Honor Guard members will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to honor all of our nation’s unknown service members on behalf of the National EMS Memorial Service Honor Guard. Honor guard personnel will also salute the Tomb Guards. Everyone is encouraged to watch the events scheduled around the ceremony. Parking is located across from the Arlington National Cemetery Welcome Center. Parking is $3 per hour and can be paid with credit card when exiting the parking garage. To enter the cemetery, proceed to the Welcome Center and go through a security checkpoint where you may have to show a photo ID and go through a metal detector. No weapons are permitted in the cemetery. The walk to the Tomb is about seven tenths of a mile mostly up hill. For those not wishing to walk, there is a tram that can you drop you off at the Tomb. Tickets for the tram can be purchased inside the Welcome Center for $25. The Metrorail Blueline has a station near the Hyatt that stops at the entrance to the cemetery. Bathrooms and water are available at both the Welcome Center and at the Memorial Amphitheater where the Tomb is located. Please dress appropriately and stay hydrated.

Event 5: Weekend of Honor—Comfort Room
Location: Hyatt-Ballroom level, Potomac II
Time: Available Friday and Saturday (except when grief sessions occur)
Attendees: Honoree family members, honoree agency members, Honor Guard members, speakers, agency escorts, presenters, volunteers, etc.
Attire: Come as you are
Details: Weekend of Honor attendees are encouraged to remember self-care. The comfort room is a low-stimulation lounge intended for quiet time, water breaks or to connect with support members when scheduled grief sessions are not in progress. Grief professionals, Chaplains, Peer Support and CISM Team members, Licensed Clinical providers (including EMDR), therapy animals, and Child Life Specialists will be available to provide additional support.
| Event 6: | National EMS Memorial Bike Ride and Weekend of Honor Welcome Ceremony (with arrival of Tree of Life and presentation of dog tags to honoree families) |
| Location: | Hyatt-Independence Center and Hyatt Driveway |
| Time: | 4PM-6:30PM (1600-1830), bikes arrive at approximately 4PM |
| Attendees: | All welcome and encouraged to attend; *open to the public* |
| Attire: | Casual |
| Details: | The National EMS Memorial Bike Riders (affectionately known as the Muddy Angels) conclude their ride into the Hyatt around 1600 local time. This officially marks the beginning of the Weekend of Honor. The purpose of the ride is to celebrate the lives of those in EMS who serve every day, those who become sick or injured, and those who have made the Ultimate Sacrifice, having died in-the-line-of-duty. There are generally about 50 riders and an equal number of volunteers who support them along the way. The riders are predominantly EMS professionals from across the U.S. Each rider wears dog tags bearing an honoree’s name during the ride. There is a viewing spot on the street just outside the Hyatt to see the riders process in. After all have arrived, a short ceremony will occur in the Hyatt Independence Center with pipes & drums that includes the presentation of the dog tags to the honorees’ families. The rider will meet the family in front of the honoree’s “biography board.” A biography board is made for each honoree that includes pictures and “tells their story.” It is here where the Muddy Angel riders present the dog tags worn during the ride to each honoree’s family. This is a powerful and inspirational part of the Weekend of Honor. As part of the event, pizza and refreshments are available. |

| Event 7: | Honoree Kids Pizza Party Meet & Greet (special kids’ section at the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride and Weekend of Honor Welcome Ceremony) |
| Location: | Hyatt-Independence Center (kids’ section) |
| Time: | 4PM-6:30PM (1600-1830), bikes arrive at approximately 4PM |
| Attendees: | All children of Honorees families past and present are encouraged to attend |
| Attire: | Casual |
| Details: | Kids are welcome to be a part of The National EMS Memorial Bike Riders ride-in and Weekend of Honor Welcome ceremony with their families or they can join in the special kids’ section of the same event to sit with other kids. Child-Life Specialists will be in the section fostering a friendly meet and greet. An Honor Guard member will also be stationed nearby to watch over the children. This is an optional event and designed to be an ice breaker for the children attending the Weekend. |

| Event 8: | Adult Grief Workshop-Dealing with Loss |
| Location: | Hyatt-Ballroom level, Potomac II |
| Time: | 7PM-9PM (1900-2100) |
| Attendees: | Restricted to adult honoree family members (past and present) |
| Attire: | Casual |
| Details: | This survivors-only event is an opportunity to meet and talk with others who are braving similar experiences. Facilitated by grief professionals, this gathering is a time to share with those who understand like no other. |

"Those who have suffered understand suffering and therefore extend their hand." - Patti Smith
Event 9: National EMS Memorial Service Honor Guard Commanders Meeting
Location: Hyatt-Roosevelt Room, 3rd floor
Time: 9-11PM (2100-2300)
Attendees: Restricted to Honor Guard commanders
Attire: Class B uniforms, business casual
Details: All Honor Guard members wishing to be a part of the National EMS Memorial Service Honor Guard must pre-register via www.national-ems-memorial.org. This meeting is for the commanders of each unit to gather and discuss details and duties for honor guard members throughout the weekend of honor, including practice schedules etc. Formal ironing/folding of flags commences with this meeting.

Event 10: Flags Folding and Tree of Life Memorial Prep
Location: Hyatt-Conference Theater
Time: Daytime Friday and again officially from 9PM-finished (2100-finished)
Attendees: National EMS Memorial Service Honor Guard members, agency escorts
Attire: Class B uniforms, business casual
Details: All medallions, flags and other commemoratives utilized for the Service are prepared during this session. Activities include assembly of the Tree of Life Memorial, polishing of the memorial leaves, preparation of the medallions, and formal procedures for ironing and folding of the US and state flags take place. White glove procedures are utilized at this somewhat reverent meeting. All Honor Guard and agency members wishing to assist in this prestigious ritual should plan to attend.

Saturday, July 23

Event 11: Gift Shop open
Location: Hyatt-Capital Room, Independence Level
Time: 9AM-3PM (0900-1500) and 7-9PM (1900-2100)
Attendees: Honoree family members, honoree agency members, honor guard members, speakers, agency escorts, presenters, volunteers, etc.
Attire: Casual
Details: Weekend of Honor attendees who have not already done so are asked to stop in at the registration area. This is the place where you can pick up name badges, ensure guests are registered for all applicable events, gather information, etc. Volunteers are available to help with wayfinding and to answer questions. The gift shop is also co-located in this area. Proceeds from gift shop sales go towards funding the Weekend.
Event 12: National EMS Memorial Service Honorees’ Family Orientation and Rehearsal
Location: Hyatt-Independence A, Independence level
Time: 8AM-10:30AM (0800-1030)
Attendees: REQUIRED for this year’s honorees’ families, agency escorts
Attire: Casual
Details: It is important that families whose loved ones are being honored in the National EMS Memorial Service this year attend this breakfast as it serves as an overview & rehearsal of the Service. Representatives provide information on what to expect at the Service, seating, family roles, agency escort roles (if applicable), etc. This is also the time for Q & A about the Weekend and Service. Prior to departing the breakfast, a family spokesperson should stop at the check-off table and make certain the representative knows at a minimum:

1) How many family/friends will be attending so we can seat you together
2) Who will be going on the stage to receive the US Flag, rose, and medallion
3) How to correctly pronounce names, etc.
4) Who is attending from the EMS agency as the family liaison/escort (if applicable)

Breakfast is provided.

Event 13: Honoree Children’s activity (grab breakfast in Independence first)
Location: Hyatt-Ballroom level, Potomac II
Time: 8:00-10:30AM (0800-1030)
Attendees: Honoree family members between the suggested ages of 3 and 17 only (trained, supervision provided, honor guard provided)
Attire: Casual
Details: Child Life Specialists (CLS) are specifically trained in helping children cope with the loss of a loved one. They dedicate time to be on site and work with the children attending the Weekend of Honor. They mingle and are available all weekend, and on Saturday morning they host a mini-grief camp which includes age-appropriate ice-breaker games and therapeutic grief activities. We understand that the weekend and the Service on Saturday evening may be an emotional for those attending. The CLS team will be available to provide extra support to children who may be having a difficult time. Light age-appropriate snacks are provided.

Event 14: Honor Guard practice
Location: Independence Center A (Pipes and Drums) and Hyatt Ballroom
Time: 8AM-3PM (0800-1500)
Attendees: All Honor Guard members planning to participate in the Service
Attire: Class B uniforms, business casual
Details: The National EMS Memorial Service Honor Guard is comprised of many EMS agency Honor Guards from across the US who come together to form one, unified Honor Guard for the Service. Some have attended before, some not. All members practice for hours before the Service counting steps, playing instruments and various other activities to ensure the best possible performance of honor at the Service later that evening.
Event 15: Speakers, Singers, Presenters, Agency Escorts practice
Location: Hyatt Ballroom
Time: 1PM-2PM (1300-1400)
Attendees: Speakers, Singers, Presenters, Agency Escorts
Attire: Class B uniforms, business casual
Details: Speakers, Singers, Presenters, Agency Escorts receive instruction, conduct AV checks, rehearse, and participate in full walk-through.

Attendees are encouraged to explore the surrounding areas. Please plan to return to the hotel in time to eat and change into attire. **Family seating begins and doors open to the public at 4PM. The service begins promptly at 5PM.** Please eat or have a snack before the Service as there won’t be an opportunity to do so until the Service is over, usually by about 6:30PM.

Event 16: The National EMS Memorial Service
Location: Hyatt Ballroom
Time: Doors open at 4PM (1600) Service begins promptly at 5PM (1700)
Attendees: All welcome and encouraged to attend; *open to the public*
Attire: Class A or dept uniforms, semi-formal, business formal
Details: While the Weekend of Honor commemorates EMS professionals deserving of all types of esteem, the Service is the formal ceremony to bestow the highest honors in EMS to those EMS professionals who have made the Ultimate Sacrifice, having given their lives in the line of duty. EMS personnel from across the country travel to Washington DC to participate. Family, friends, co-workers of current and past honorees, dignitaries, EMS leaders, and government officials will be in attendance. The Service is ceremonial with most participants in dress uniform, flight suits, business formal or similarly appropriate attire. Families are encouraged to dress as they are comfortable. Professional photography provides discretion and respect. The Service includes bag pipers, drum corps and honor guard presentations. A flag flown over the U.S. Capital is presented to each honoree’s family along with a National EMS Memorial Service medallion and a white rose. During the Memorial Service a national moment of silence occurs and EMS agencies across the U.S. participate in radio silence in remembrance of the fallen. A light reception follows.

Event 17: The “After-Honors Tribute”
Location: Hyatt-Chesapeake View-Rooftop
Time: Approximately 9PM (2100)
Attendees: All welcome (must be 21 to enter bar)
Attire: Casual
Details: Pipes and drums have long been established as holding a specific honor in EMS. After the formal Service and official duties are complete, most put away their formal attire and an informal “dress down” salute takes place. The pipers’ pipe and the drummers drum, toasts are made, and glasses are raised in salute to the fallen in a tradition that dates back to the origin of Fire and EMS. While it may seem celebratory, even irreverent to outsiders, true EMS providers know that this honor is actually the highest form of respect that can be paid between the brothers and sisters of EMS. All Weekend of Honor attendees are welcome.
**Sunday, July 24**

Event 18: Gift Shop open  
Location: Hyatt-Capital Room, Independence Level  
Time: 7AM-10:30AM (0700-1030)  
Attendees: All welcome  
Attire: Casual  
Details: Proceeds from gift shop sales go towards funding the Weekend.

Event 19: The Family Breakfast  
Location: Hyatt-Independence A, Independence level  
Time: 8-10:00AM (0800-1000)  
Attendees: Honorees’ families (past and present), Board members, Honor Guard members, agency escorts, donors  
Attire: Casual  
Details: The Family Breakfast is the final official event and closes the Weekend of Honor. Breakfast begins at 8AM with the program beginning at approximately 8:30AM. This private, informal, more intimate gathering is a wonderful opportunity for family members, EMS agency members, donors, and others to share experiences or stories about the honorees (both past and present). It is not uncommon for surviving family and EMS agency members from previous years to return to support the current year’s honorees’ families at this breakfast. After an invocation, reading of the names and breakfast, the podium and microphone are opened for sharing. All are encouraged to “step up to the mic” and share experiences or tell stories of loved ones. This is usually a very moving and touching time and serves to help connect families with others who are braving similar experiences.