



Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, Sep. 13, 2007

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Letters to the Editor

Letter to the Editor . . .

. . .

A Resolution was passed in the US Senate dedicating September 25, 2007 as National First Responder Appreciation Day. Finally there is a day to officially recognize the contributions that EMS, fire and law enforcement personnel provide every day, both paid and volunteer, in communities throughout Alaska and the United States.

I can hear you asking yourself "Why would this be of any significance to me?" I wanted to bring this day to your attention in order to give you the opportunity to contact your first responders and let them know that you recognize their contributions and appreciate their service to your community.

I think this recognition should also be extended a little farther to include some of the people that may not be on the front lines; the instructors, managers and leaders who provide the training, support and infrastructure that enable all responders to perform their jobs and respond to emergencies.


There is one additional group that rarely receives any recognition that also deserves to be included - the quiet group behind the scenes - the spouses and families of the responders. They are the ones waiting for the safe return of their loved ones who have missed that dinner or special event to respond to someone else's emergency. They are truly the under-appreciated heroes of emergency services.

The Alaskan EMS motto is "An Alaskan tradition, Neighbor Helping Neighbor". This is not just a motto but a way of life, the mind set and the common denominator among emergency responders. It is evident by their willingness to train, prepare and respond when one of their "neighbors" needs assistance. It doesn't matter whether it truly is a neighbor or someone they've never met and will never see again.

I hope you will join me in extending your thanks and appreciation to all of Alaska's EMS, fire and law enforcement personnel, along with all the people behind the scenes for their commitment to

helping others. Their service and sacrifice is all too often taken for granted.

Sue Hecks
Executive Director
Southern Region EMS Council
Anchorage

(Click on button below)	Special Interest Forum: From time to time, topics of discussion will come up that are not a good fit for the Letters to the Editor section . . . usually due to things like the length of the letters or the need to post responses sooner than once a week on Thursday. Click the "Forum" button to enter this section. If you have a topic that you would like started, please let us know.
	No Forum Currently Running

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