



Judge/Executive Gary W. Moore

First Responders Deserve Recognition, Thanks

September 2, 2011

A few years ago I participated in a ceremony at the Burlington Fire Department commemorating the loss of several fire fighters on September 11th. Like many times before, I was struck by the commitment that our first responders have for service to our community. These professionals willingly do things that others wouldn't dream of. And they simply call it work.

First responders can be firefighters, law enforcement, EMTs, or paramedics. They are also fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters. Some may even have grandchildren. Many times I've learned they do what they do because it's in their blood. Their father was a cop. Their mother was an EMT. Others may not have grown up with first responders in their family but simply felt the call to service.

And we are a safer community because of them. First responders give much of their lives to help others. They sacrifice time away from their own families to help preserve someone else's. And they do this because they wouldn't want to live any other way. It's just what they do.

As we remember the events that unfolded on September 11th, I ask that you take a moment to thank a fire fighter, police officer, sheriff's deputy, EMT, paramedic, dispatchers or emergency management personnel who has had an impact on your life. They deserve our recognition and thanks.