Proclamation

Whereas, throughout New York State, more than 75,000 volunteer and career Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers are ready to answer calls for emergency response and to deliver urgent medical care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; and

Whereas, we take this opportunity to honor and thank the members of our highly efficient EMS teams who often place their own lives on the line, confronting dangerous situations, taking risks, and making sacrifices to help those in dire need — in many circumstances, saving lives through courageous acts of rescue; and

Whereas, access to quality emergency medical care can significantly improve the survival and recovery rate of individuals who experience sudden illness or injury and, as a critical safety net for our health care system, a well-organized EMS system is a vital public service within all communities of New York State; and

Whereas, our EMS teams include first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, dispatchers, nurses, physicians, educators, administrators, quality assurance coordinators and various other professionals, many of whom are volunteers who generously donate their time, energy and expertise; and

Whereas, New York State is committed to supporting, retaining, and recruiting qualified EMS providers to meet the ongoing health care demands of our communities, including working in pre-hospital environments as well as nontraditional EMS environments to best meet the needs of people at the sites and locations they seek care; and

Whereas, during the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare providers were required to take on added duties and responsibilities, and EMS personnel played a pivotal role in combating the spread of the virus by becoming a part of the statewide vaccination effort; in partnership with local health departments, EMS workers became vaccinators in mass PODs and community paramedics traveled directly to administer vaccines to homebound persons who otherwise might not have become vaccinated; and

Whereas, last year the EMS community responded to nearly 4,000,000 calls in communities across New York State with efficiency and professionalism and, during this observance of Emergency Medical Services Week, we take the opportunity to recognize the vigilance, selflessness, and invaluable work of EMS providers and extend our gratitude to all members of this critical area of public service who continue to meet unparalleled challenges, knowing that it takes extraordinary individuals in these extraordinary times to compassionately tend to our fellow human beings in times of need;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 21 - 27, 2023 as

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-second day of May in the year two thousand twenty-three.

Governor

Kathy Hochul

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh