

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
MS 0525
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20528-0525

Dear Secretary Mullin,

Congress established the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation with a clear and solemn mission: to honor America's fallen firefighters at the national level and to stand with the families they leave behind. This year, that mission faces an unexpected challenge.

Due to the current funding lapse affecting the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), access to the United States Fire Administration (USFA) campus—home to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial—is uncertain. In times of funding disruption, even places of profound national significance can be impacted.

As negotiations over Fiscal Year 2026 funding for DHS continue, we respectfully urge you to take all necessary actions to ensure that the USFA campus and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial remain open and fully accessible to the families attending this year's National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend on May 2–3, 2026, and for all years in the future.

For the 204 firefighters being honored this year, representing 43 states, this is far more than a logistical concern. It represents an irreplaceable moment of remembrance for their families, friends, and colleagues—many of whom may never again have the opportunity to gather at the Memorial where their loved one is permanently honored.

When Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, it did so with clear intent: that those who gave their lives in service would be recognized not only by their local communities, but by the nation as a whole. The Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland, stands as the enduring expression of that promise—a place where names are etched in bronze, where families find solace, and where the country pauses to honor sacrifice.

The firefighters we recognize this year died in service to others. Their families now carry that legacy forward. They should not be faced with additional uncertainty when traveling to the one place established to honor their loved ones on behalf of an entire grateful nation.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and for your continued support of our nation's fire service and Fire Hero Families.

Sincerely,



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



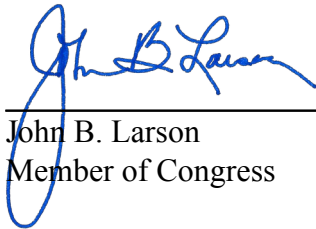
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



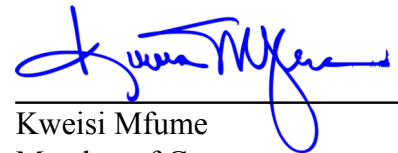
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



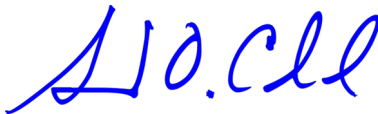
Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



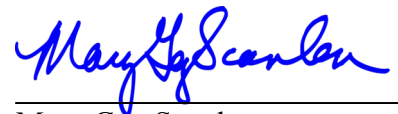
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress




Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Josh Riley
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



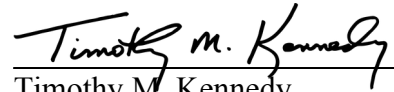
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



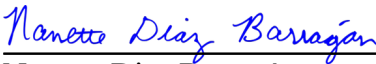
Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



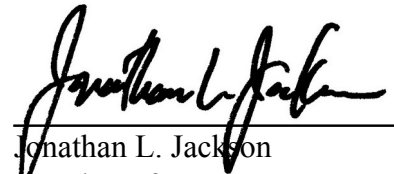
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress