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Illinois Sheriffs' Association Honors All First Responders in Observance of National First Responders Day

(Springfield), IL — October 28 marks **National First Responders Day**, a day established by Congress in 2017 to honor the brave men and women who answer the call when emergencies arise. This national observance recognizes the selfless dedication of law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, dispatchers, and other critical first-response professionals who put their lives on the line to protect others. The day serves as a moment of reflection and gratitude for those who respond to natural disasters, medical crises, and public safety emergencies with courage, professionalism, and compassion.

All across Illinois, first responders answer calls ranging from medical emergencies to natural disasters, traffic incidents to public-safety concerns. This day shines a spotlight on their commitment, sacrifice, and daily acts of heroism.

“Every day, our law-enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, 911 dispatchers, corrections professionals, and the many support personnel who stand behind them show up for our communities when it matters most,” said Jim Kaitschuk, Executive Director of the Illinois Sheriffs’ Association. “On behalf of the Illinois Sheriffs’ Association, I offer our deepest thanks. You make our state safer, stronger, and more resilient.”

A Message of Unity and Support

The Illinois Sheriffs’ Association encourages communities across the state to take a moment today — and beyond — to reach out in appreciation. Whether it’s a handwritten thank-you note, a social-media message, or simply pausing to acknowledge their service, these acts matter. “Our first responders don’t do it for the applause, but they deserve it nonetheless,” Kaitschuk added.

A Pledge Moving Forward

In addition to recognition, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association reaffirms its commitment to ensuring first responders have the training, resources, and policies needed to perform their duties safely and effectively. "We owe them more than our gratitude — we owe them a system that helps them succeed, protects them, and honors their efforts," Kaitschuk stated.

How You Can Join In

- Reach out to your local first-responder agency or sheriff's office with words of thanks.
- Attend or support local events recognizing first responders in your community.
- Use social media to highlight stories of first-responder service, with the hashtag **#NationalFirstRespondersDay**.

Continuing the Partnership

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association encourages every resident to stay engaged with their local first responders year-round — through volunteering, attending community safety events, or simply building relationships with those who serve. Together, we can continue fostering a spirit of partnership, respect, and shared responsibility that strengthens every community across our state.

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