



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 16-22, 2021

### ***National EMS Week***

I am honored to recognize California's emergency medical services providers this week for their lifesaving work on ambulances, fire trucks, helicopters, fixed wing aircraft, in hospital emergency departments and throughout our communities.

The Wedworth-Townsend Act of 1970 unified emergency medical services across California, setting in motion the development of the collaborative systems of emergency care we rely on to this day.

Emergency medical services (EMS) personnel provide vital care to all Californians, whether in response to an accident, a sudden and life-threatening illness, the need for specialized care, or for those unable to access medical care on their own. The nearly 90,000 members of California's public and private emergency medical services teams devote their time, effort and expertise to saving lives 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The lifesaving contributions of these individuals have never been needed more than they were over the past year, as the global COVID-19 pandemic and record wildfires urgently increased the demand for emergency medical response personnel in California and across the world. In these unprecedented times, EMS personnel quickly adapted to meet the moment – from transporting ICU patients during the peak COVID-19 surge, to administering COVID-19 tests and vaccinations and supporting community public health needs in all regions of the state. The tireless work of EMS personnel and providers, who put their own health at risk for their community, demonstrates how integral these health care heroes are to California's emergency and public health response systems.

On behalf of all the State of California, I thank these men and women for their outstanding public service and dedication to such a noble profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", is written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom