

SPRINGDALE, MD – Today, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) participated in the graduation ceremony for Prince George's County firefighters who have completed the County Fire/EMS Training Academy program. At the ceremony, a moment of silence was held for Prince George's County Police Officer Kevin Bowden, who passed away this evening after a car accident.

"Congratulations to Career Recruit School Forty-six," **stated Congressman Hoyer**. "I was honored to join them today to mark the end of their training, and the beginning of exciting and rewarding careers as firefighters and emergency responders."

"The brave men and women who protect our communities deserve our support, and Congress ought to continue doing its part to keep them safe while on the job," **continued Congressman Hoyer**. "Throughout my career, I have been committed to ensuring our first responders have the resources they need to do their jobs safely, and I remain dedicated to supporting them for many more years to come."

"At the ceremony, we were also deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Police Officer Kevin Bowden," **said Congressman Hoyer**. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and the Prince George's County Police Department."

Congressman Hoyer serves as co-chair of the Congressional Fire Service Caucus, and strongly supports FIRE and SAFER grants, which help provide fire stations with the funding for equipment and personnel. In July, he joined Reps. Chris Van Hollen (MD-8) and Donna Edwards (MD-4) in announcing a \$2.5 million SAFER grant award for the Prince George's County Fire Department to hire 18 new firefighters.