



301 Chestnut Street • Suite 101 • Harrisburg, PA 17101

Robert Brooks
President

Patrick Martin
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Kevin Ressler
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Patrick Miller
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Eastern VP

Good afternoon, members of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

My name is Robert Brooks, I am a 20-year Veteran of the City of Bethlehem Fire Department. I am also The President of the Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Association. I am honored to be able to sit here today to discuss a major problem we are facing in the fire service. Thank You for the invitation.

The people that have spoken before me have laid down some serious facts and figures. Some of which I hope have blown your minds. I am not going to add to those statistics. What I am going to say is that we are all in lock step when it comes to Cancer/PFAS in our line of work. Time is of the essence here. Our Firefighters are begging for help, and we are struggling to find it. We understand the risks we take when we come on the job. We do accept that we may die trying to save the lives of others. What we are asking here today is that you help us limit that risk and help us do the job as safely as possible to allow us return home to our loved ones after every shift. We need a cancer prevention strategy. As you have heard, we need to invest in critical research programs and prioritize the most dangerous cancer risks for firefighters. Fighting Occupational Cancer must include Cancer Screenings for firefighters, education, and training to help better understand the risk. We also support the expansion and funding of the Pennsylvania Public Safety Officer Benefit (PSOB) program to include and cover Line of Duty Deaths and permanent disabilities due to occupational cancer.

We need to support those that protect us every day!
Thank You for your time!

Be Strong, Be Safe, Be Union!

Robert R Brooks
President
Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Assn.
RBrooks@ppffa.org
484-357-4955



O: (717) 221-8800 • Fax: (717) 221-8488 • www.ppffa.org

Affiliated with International Association of Fire Fighters, American Federation of Labor, Congress of Industrial Organizations, Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, Local Labor Union