

## **Junior FF Remarks**

**Good afternoon . . . And I say welcome to our State  
Capitol here in Harrisburg**

**As was noted . . . my name is Paul Semmel and I am  
the Majority Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs  
and Emergency Preparedness Committee . . . this is  
the committee that handles the majority of the issues  
that involve the emergency response services in  
Pennsylvania.**

**In recent years, we have worked on issues dealing with grant funding for volunteer fire/ems departments . . . enhancement of our hazardous materials law . . . improved death benefits for emergency responders. . . and created a wireless E-911 system.**

**Overall, this committee works very close with Mr. Savage and the membership of the PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute.**

**The reason for this is simple . . . we do not create laws “in a vacuum”. . . . that is to say that when a certain**

**law needs amended . . . we work with the individuals or groups that are effected with this proposed change in the law.**

**In essence . . . if the proposed change does not make sense to the group we are trying to assist . . . then . . . why is there a need to move forward on such a proposal?**

**With all of this said . . . your presence here today shows the commitment that each and every one of you has to the future and the enhancement of the volunteer emergency services in Pennsylvania.**

**This youth leadership challenge program is an important part of the grooming process which you will need to be effective leaders in your fire and EMS departments.**

**Understanding the political process here in Harrisburg . . . a process which you personally are an important component of . . . is paramount in regard to your institutes collective goal of educating state and local governments for the common goal of enhancing the delivery of emergency services . . . and further**

**enhancing the safety and well being of your brother  
and sister emergency responders.**

**I don't want to detract from your tight time schedule .**

**.. thus I will simply end by again saying welcome to**

**Harrisburg, enjoy your time here at our State Capitol**

**... and I would like to personally thank each and**

**everyone of you for answering the call to public**

**service in your communities.**

**You are the future of our emergency services ... and**

**it is my hope that your experience this week will take**

**you far in the leadership levels of your departments ..**

**. and also in various local and state associations that are the driving force for effective change in matters that are of deep concern to the emergency services community.**

**Thank you . . . and I look forward to seeing you on the floor of the House this afternoon. If for some reason you were unable to personally meet your house member today, Chairman Tigie and I will make an effort to bring your member back to speak with you, if you let us know who your member is.**

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*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT AGENCY COUNCIL

March 23, 2004

**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** Representative Paul Semmel, Majority Chairman  
Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee *P.W.S.*

**SUBJECT:** Junior Firefighters & Emergency Responders

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On **Monday, March 29, 2004** Junior Firefighters and Emergency Responders will be in Harrisburg for the Youth Leadership Challenge II, which is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute.

The youth will meet their peers from throughout the Commonwealth, interact with State Officials, develop emergency services leadership skills to enhance their local community, learn about emergency service career opportunities, and get a first-hand view of the legislative process.

If a youth from your legislative district is participating in this event, be advised that he/she will be contacting your office to schedule a visit. Please make every effort to accommodate this group on their visit to Harrisburg. If you have any questions please feel free to contact my office at 787-3017.

PWS/prh