Dear Clergy Member,

The \_\_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department and our nation’s firefighters need your prayers.

Every October, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) sponsors the official national tribute to all firefighters who died in the line of duty during the previous year. The survivors of the fallen and thousands of fire service members gather for the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg, Maryland to honor the lives and sacrifices of these heroes.

It is a time-honored tradition to ring bells during funerals and memorial services for firefighters. In keeping with this custom, the bells of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel will ring at the beginning of the Memorial Service on Sunday, October 12th in tribute to the fallen heroes.

Your local fire department and the NFFF invite you to be part of this national remembrance by participating in the Third Annual *Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters*. Your participation can occur at any time during the weekend October 10th – 12th. We encourage you to work with a representative from your fire department to create a tribute that is appropriate for your congregation, such as ringing chapel bells, a moment of silence, a brief prayer, a hymn, or tolling a ceremonial bell by members of the fire department during your service.

Last year more than 100 fire departments from around the country and their places of worship participated in *Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters*. This year we hope you will accept our invitation and be part of this new tradition that not only honors the memories of the fallen, but serves as a symbol to the survivors that their loved ones will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,

Chief Ronald Jon Siarnicki, Your Local Fire Department

Executive Director,

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation