Dear Clergy Member,

The [YOUR 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 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service on Sunday, October 8, 2017, 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 7 - 8. We encourage you to work with a representative from your fire department to create a tribute that is appropriate for your congregation. Some examples include: 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.

Please join us and hundreds of other fire departments and community organizations in this tradition that honors the memories of the fallen and reassures the survivors that their loved ones will never be forgotten. To learn more visit [www.BellsAcrossAmerica.com](http://www.BellsAcrossAmerica.com).

Sincerely,

[YOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICER NAME AND CONTACT]