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Hinchey Introduces Bill to Boost Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters, Emergency Personnel

Published Tuesday, July 12th, 2011 by Content Manager in [Office of Maurice Hinchey](#)

Washington, DC - In an effort to both honor the service of volunteer firefighters and emergency response personnel, as well as to boost the recruitment and retention of these vital first responders, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) last week introduced the Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts (SERVE) Act.

"Small communities in New York and throughout the country rely on volunteer firefighters to respond in emergencies," said Hinchey. "These brave volunteers in many cases serve the same function as professional firefighters, but they do it on their own time and without compensation. The SERVE Act would provide volunteer firefighters and emergency service personnel with a \$1,000 annual tax credit. The brave volunteers who risk their own lives to save the lives of others deserve our support. In short, the SERVE Act says thank you."

If enacted, the SERVE Act, which has bipartisan support, would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer fire departments and emergency service crews. To qualify for the refundable tax credit, firefighters and paramedics must serve at least 40 hours over the course of six months of the year. The SERVE Act would promote staffing at these emergency organizations to maintain the proper services needed to protect New York's communities.

Read complete article at Delcounty.com: [Hinchey Introduces Bill to Boost Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters](#)