



Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Remembrance Ceremony
for those lost to the COVID-19 pandemic

Welcome

P. David Tarter, Chairman
Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Bagpipes

Matthew Lopez, Battalion Chief
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue
Northern Virginia Emerald Pipe Band Society

Presentation of Colors

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Honor Guard

Invocation

Chaplain Harry Chelpon
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue

Remarks

Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director of Health
Fairfax County Health Department

Kevin Davis, Chief
Fairfax County Police

John Butler, Chief
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue

Bell Service - Last Alarm



About the Bell Service “Last Alarm” or “Last Call”

The ceremonial ringing of the bell in memory of those who died in the line of duty is a tradition in the fire service that dates back over 150 years. The sound of a bell holds special significance for firefighters. Historically, the toll of a bell summoned members to the station, signaled the beginning of a shift, notified departments of a call for help and indicated a call was completed and the unit had returned to the station. Today, the tradition of ringing a bell is symbolic and used at a firefighter’s funeral to represent the end of an emergency and a return to quarters.

Today, we ring the bell to honor those we have lost to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first three chimes represent the first responders and health care workers who paid the ultimate sacrifice to help those who needed it. The middle three chimes represent the public servants and front lines workers who continue to serve their communities. The last three chimes represent the friends and family members who were taken from us too soon.

We will invite representatives from each jurisdiction to stand as we ring the bell three times in memory of their local residents lost to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Northern Virginia Regional Commission Member Localities

Arlington County	Fairfax County
Prince William County	Loudoun County
City of Alexandria	City of Fairfax
City of Falls Church	City of Manassas
City of Manassas Park	Town of Dumfries
Town of Herndon	Town of Leesburg
	Town of Vienna

