

MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

HONORING THOSE WHO SAVE OUR LIVES AND HOMES...

As your State Representative, I have been honored to meet many of the brave men and women who risk their lives daily to put out fires and save the lives of our family members, neighbors and citizens of HD19. Often these unsung heroes sacrifice their jobs, health, families and sometimes their lives, as they protect our lives and property from fiery blazing infernos.

Lack of resources requires many of our communities including Calhan, Falcon, Ellicott, Peyton, Edison, Rush, Hanover, Fountain, Security, Widefield and Rancho, to rely heavily on the services of volunteer firefighters, who often serve us without any type of compensation, reimbursement for expenses, or even recognition.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration website (www.usfa.dhs.gov) the following represent statistics for the 2006 fire year:

- There were 1,642,500 fires in the United States; creating \$11.3 billion dollars of direct property loss;
- 72% of all firefighters are volunteers;
- Colorado has lost 34 firefighters while on duty between 1981-2006, and nationally 106 firefighters have been killed while on duty;

Colorado is home to some of the most compassionate and understanding employers in America! We thank and honor those employers who are willing to hire these courageous men and women who are sometimes called away to save our communities from the destruction of a catastrophic fire. But, unfortunately there are some municipalities and large businesses that refuse to allow their non-essential employees to leave work when called upon as volunteer firefighters to save their communities, and consequently, many risk losing their jobs if they respond!

To address this issue, it has been my privilege to work with Fountain City Council Member Lois Landgraff, Fountain Fire Chief Darin Anstine, Colorado Springs Fire Chief Manual Navarro, and Fire Chief Paul Cooke of the Colorado Fire Chief's Association on a bill (SB08-116) that will protect those volunteer firefighters who may need to leave work to respond to a catastrophic fire within their respective communities.

The provisions of this bill will be triggered only when the fire within the response area of the employee's fire department is of such magnitude that the emergency summons issued by the fire chief requires EVERY firefighter to respond. And, to protect the integrity of the small businesses in our communities, this will only apply to employers with more than fifty employees and only apply to volunteer firefighters who are considered "non-essential" employees by their employer.

Please join me in supporting our volunteer firefighters and SB1160 by calling or emailing me at the information listed below. If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue, please contact me at MarshaLooper@gmail.com, or call me at 238-5600. For additional information visit WWW.GOMARSHA.ORG. Thank you for the privilege of serving you!

Marsha Looper,
Colorado House of Representatives, HD 19

Fire Fighters Creed

**When I'm called to duty god
wherever flames may rage
give me strength to save a life
whatever be its age**

**Help me to embrace a little child
before it is too late
or save an older person from
the horror of that fate**

**Enable me to be alert
to hear the weakest shout
and quickly and efficiently
to put the fire out**

**I want to fill my calling and
to give the best in me
to guard my neighbor and
protect his property**

**And if according to your will
I have to lose my life
bless with your protecting hand
my children and my wife.**