

**Endorsement by Eric N. Bernard**  
**Executive Director, Montgomery County Volunteer Fire – Rescue**  
**Association**  
**of Chief Paul Sullivan, Jr. for Second Vice President of the Maryland State**  
**Firemen’s Association**  
**January 11, 2022**

*"To volunteer is to choose to act in recognition of a need, going beyond what is necessary to one's physical well-being, with an attitude of social responsibility, and without concern for monetary profit." Susan J Ellis.*

I proudly, fully, and enthusiastically endorse Chief Paul Sullivan, Jr. for the position of Second Vice President of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association!

Paul’s enthusiasm, total commitment, and zeal for the volunteer and combination fire, rescue and EMS service in our state remains unmatched. He shows full dedication with his most impressive history of leadership, education and training, and involvement thought out the State. Everyone knows and sees Paul’s faithfulness to the fire/rescue service, volunteer advocacy, and certainly no one misses his presence.

I’ve personally worked closely with Chief Sullivan for many years advancing the fire/rescue service, the volunteer service needs, and championing legislation in Annapolis. His complete knowledge and understanding of the processes, training, recruiting, government and elected officials, and leadership as well as his energy are simply remarkable. Those traits guarantee his and our beloved MSFA’s success with him as the Second Vice President

Benjamin Franklin is quoted as describing firefighters as, "Brave men of Spirit and humanity. Good Citizens, or neighbors, capable and worthy of civil Society and the enjoyment of a happy government."

How do we in Maryland meet the challenges of answering more calls, more complex and involved emergencies requiring more training, and meeting the demands of all hazards with less volunteer professionals? The answer is simple – good leadership! Involved leaders. Relevant leaders. Leaders who still participate daily in answering the calls, taking the training, and volunteering in the stations on the floor who see first-hand the work needing completed. This describes Chief Sullivan – active, contemporary, educated, dedicated, and faithful.

The leaders we elect must be ORGANIZED and have a PLAN. Paul brings incredible organization and a full plan. His platform and goals outline his in-depth understanding of the needs of the service. He also brings current, firsthand experience as he still serves each day on responding apparatus. He knows TODAY’S problems and current affairs. He is a chief’s chief!

Please join me and support Chief Paul Sullivan, Jr for MSFA Second Vice President.