

***Congressman
J. Randy Forbes***
Fourth District of Virginia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Christine Shott
(202) 225-6365

January 7, 2004



Forbes Announces Grant for Colonial Heights Fire and EMS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Randy Forbes (VA-04) announced today a federal grant for the Colonial Heights Fire and Emergency Services Department in the amount of \$225,000 as part of the 2003 Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) Program.

The Assistance for Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and assists rural, urban and suburban fire departments throughout the United States. These funds are used by the nation's firefighters to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, firefighter health and safety programs, new fire apparatus, emergency medical service programs, and fire prevention and safety programs.

Colonial Heights requested funding to purchase a new fire truck through the *Firefighting Vehicles Acquisition Program*. Forbes wrote a letter of support for the funding to the U.S. Fire Administration on behalf of the department.

"I am so pleased that Colonial Heights Fire and Emergency Services received this well-deserved and much-needed funding to assist them in protecting and serving the residents of Colonial Heights," Forbes said. "This grant will enable the department to replace their thirty year-old pumper truck."

Fire Chief John Snyder commented, "We're extremely thankful that this [vehicle acquisition] program was made available to us. There was no way we would have been able to replace the pumper truck within next five years due to other funding priorities. We are so thankful to Mr. Forbes for his support in receiving this funding."

"Colonial Heights has 80 dedicated career and volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel who risk their lives every day to provide safety and security to their community," Forbes said. "I'm proud and honored to give them all of my support."