WHEREAS, North Dakota has more than 300 volunteer and career fire departments across our rural and urban communities, staffed by dedicated men and women selflessly serving their neighbors in times of need; and

WHEREAS, volunteer and career firefighters are often leaders in their communities, contributing to community engagement and serving as role models for our youth; and

WHEREAS, in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, career and volunteer first responders are on the front lines of our fight against the potentially deadly novel coronavirus disease, responding to, caring for and often risking their own health to continue to serve their communities in times of need; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Firefighter’s Association annually recognizes those firefighters who have answered their final call within the last year during their Annual State Convention the first weekend in June; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Firefighter’s Association has cancelled the Annual State Convention, which was to be held June 5-7, 2020, in Devils Lake, to minimize the spread of the coronavirus and safeguard our firefighters, their family members and ultimately our emergency response capabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim June 6, 2020, FIREFIGHTER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE in the State of North Dakota.