



HERO Project



Honoring Emergency/First Responder Opportunity (HERO) Club Project

Each day, many thousands of First Responders throughout our country strive to keep each and every one of us safe. We often see these men and women in our fire departments, law enforcement, medical areas, and military as indispensable, daily heroes within our communities. It's a sometimes perilous, always ever vigilant, and oftentimes thankless job which these champions must perform with limited resources. Although these dedicated professionals deserve appreciation every day the **Honoring Emergency/First Responders Opportunity (HERO) Project** seeks to acknowledge and understand the importance in recognizing those men and women who work and volunteer around the clock to ensure public safety where we live.

How do we do this?

Together, we can tangibly go beyond saying a simple thank you when we see them on the street. Modeled after our Rotary District's highly successful RUSH program, for Rotary Year 2020-2021, District Grant funds are available to **every D7690 Rotary Club** who conducts a project in **partnership with or for** your community's Emergency/First Responder. After September 11, 2020, the date NC recognizes as First Responder Day, a HERO Project application is available on D7690 website (www.rotary7690.org). Application period closes on December 31, 2020. All applications will be reviewed and upon approval of the project, D7690 will provide \$400 in district grant funds for a minimum \$100 matching contribution from the Rotary Club. Rotary clubs are encouraged to spend more than the required \$500 per project.

The HERO Project can be any service activity (hands on, not just a monetary contribution) conducted with a Emergency/First Response partner broadly defined as local or state fire department, law enforcement organization, medical assistance institution, or US military-affiliated unit or military veterans' agency. The project must be completed by May 15, 2021 when a brief Final Report will be due to the HERO Project Chair, PDG Lloyd Navarro, (LloydNavarro@rotary7690.org).

Milestone Dates:

- September 11, 2020 – NC First Responder Day - HERO Project Applications on District Website.
- October 28, 2020 – National First Responder Day (unofficial celebration).
- December 31, 2020 – HERO Project Applications submission closes.
- May 15, 2021 – Final Report for HERO Project due. Recommend submitting Final Report immediately after conducting the project.

Five Reasons our Emergency/First Responders deserve attention through D7690 HERO project:

1. They risk their lives, and save lives – they courageously put others before themselves.
2. They make immense personal sacrifices and shoulder unfathomable burdens while performing their duties.
3. Many experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
4. They keep us and our communities safe.
5. The impact of an Emergency/First Responder's job affects more than just them.

Project Goals:

- ✓ Strengthen relationships between Rotary Clubs and Emergency/First Responder organizations throughout the 15-county District 7690 area.
- ✓ 100% participation of all Rotary Clubs in partnership with an Emergency/First Responder organization.
- ✓ Foment increased community awareness to the immeasurable impact that First Responders individually and collectively have in our area.
- ✓ Collectively provide a tangible Thank You activity for Emergency/First Responders.