NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Affiliated with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

NFFE News Release

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FEDERAL EMPLOYEE UNION LEADER ISSUES STATEMENT ON PERRY'S 'SEND FEDS TO A GOD AWFUL PLACE' COMMENT

Washington, D.C. – In response to Governor Rick Perry's recent statement suggesting federal workers should be reassigned to "some god awful place," NFFE National President William R. Dougan issued the following statement:

"Governor Perry's comments are irresponsible and insulting to the 2.1 million dedicated federal employees serving our country every day. It comes as no surprise that he would launch such baseless political attacks on federal workers. He sees a political opportunity in painting federal workers as a symbol of big government, and he is exploiting it to the fullest."

"These 'federal bureaucrats' he so often refers to are not a bunch of overpaid, under-worked paper pushers in Washington like the Governor would like people to believe. They are the nurses and doctors who care for our veterans, the border patrol agents that protect our nation from drug and human smuggling, and the firefighters who save thousands of homes and businesses each year fighting wildfires – including those that ravaged Texas just this year. These are the workers Perry insults when making comments like these."

"If Governor Perry wants to know what 'a god awful place' looks like, he should imagine Texas without thousands of dedicated federal employees defending its border, staffing its VA hospitals, and extinguishing its wildfires."

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Established in 1917, the National Federation of Federal Employees is the oldest union representing civil service federal employees. NFFE represents approximately 110,000 federal employees in nearly 40 separate departments and agencies government-wide. NFFE is affiliated with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO. For more information, go to www.nffe.org.