



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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# Press Release

## Randolph Firefighter talks good choices and great careers at the Middle School

Part of DA Morrissey's Young Women's Lunch Series



Randolph Firefighter and Paramedic Cherie Patten was at the Randolph Community Middle School on Friday, telling a group of eighth graders about what she calls "the best job in the world."

"This is something I never thought I was going to do," Firefighter Patten told 18 eighth-grade girls who participate in District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey's Young Women's Lunch Series. "And now I do it."

Several times a year, District Attorney Morrissey arranges a lunchtime gathering for young girls at the middle school featuring a speaker who – like Patten – has made choices in life that have led to success. "It is really about connecting students with the bright futures available to them if they make the right decisions and work hard along the way," Morrissey said. "There are many routes to success."

Patten, who grew up in Randolph and attended the schools, has been with the fire department for more than six years. Her duty has ranged from driving the fire apparatus to entering burning buildings and tending to residents who have called for medical assistance. One of the dozen questions she fielded from the group was whether it was frightening to run into a building on fire. "It is a little bit scary at first – but you get used to it."

She also talked about the decisions along the way that have led to holding a well-respected job that she loves, and the life and family that accompany it, including attending college and technical training after leaving high school. "And you definitely can't get into trouble."

DA Morrissey's Young Women's Lunch Series has previously featured female police officers, defense attorneys, prosecutors, a probation officer, nurses, a graphic artist and other professionals – several of whom grew up in Randolph. He has also had speakers from Domestic Violence Ended (DOVE) in Quincy and similar organizations to talk about healthy relationships and growing up safe.

"The messengers are different every session, but the messages are all about being safe and healthy today and how to create safe and healthy futures," Morrissey said. "It would not work without the partnership and leadership of people in the community, like Fire Chief Richard Donovan, who helped us bring Firefighter Patten this time, and the school leadership, who help make this happen each time."