

FACING TOMORROW TOGETHER

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
A Newsletter for Fire Service Survivors



JUST WANT TO SAY HELLO



As the recently elected Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, I want to take this opportunity to send a brief greeting to you. In

April, I was able to spend some time with those of you who attended the Survivors Conference and Reception in the Washington, DC, area. The conference served as a great example of how survivors support each other, as well as the role of staff and volunteers within that support process. To say the least, it was impressive to see this example of the excellent work of the Foundation. I'm looking forward to spending more time with you in the future.

It's humbling to assume the role of NFFF Chairman. Hal Bruno has done such a wonderful job in this position for many years, and following him is truly an honor. Hal will continue to serve as a member of the NFFF Board of Directors, so we are very fortunate to continue to have his counsel and leadership as we go forward. In my thirty-eight years in the fire service, this is truly one of the most exciting opportunities I've had. The reason for that is simple...it's my respect for the mission of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the people involved that connects me to the organization. Honoring our fallen firefighters, assisting fire departments before and when a

fatality occurs, supporting the survivors of our fallen heroes in various ways, and working as a partner within the fire service to prevent firefighter injuries and deaths represents a straight-forward and purposeful focus for the organization.

I'm very fortunate to get to work with such a talented and committed Board of Directors and Advisory Committee, a world-class Executive Director and staff, as well as our wonderful survivors, volunteers, and partners in carrying-out the work of the Foundation. We must never lose sight of the sacrifices of our nation's fallen firefighters and their survivors, and we will continue to work collectively to demonstrate our commitment to the many people we serve through our programs and activities. Our challenge is to always strive to do what we do better than we have before, and to improve the overall effectiveness of the organization as opportunities to do so are identified.

Thank you for this chance to say hello, and please take care of yourselves. I hope to see you soon.

- Chief Dennis Compton



NASCAR EVENT

At Dover International Speedway to Benefit NFFF



The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and Dover International Speedway have announced a partnership that will build awareness and raise funds

for the NFFF. Dover International Speedway has created a unique package for firefighters and their families to experience the Sept. 21, 2008, NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race at the Monster Mile.

The special offer provides a great ticket to the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race, admission to a pre-race NFFF hospitality area with an all-you-can-eat buffet and beverages, including Pepsi and Anheuser-Busch products, special guest appearances and industry presentations, and a trackside tour of Dover International Speedway. A portion of all proceeds will benefit the NFFF.

"We are pleased to create this unique, all-inclusive experience at the race in Dover for the men and women

continued inside

31 CENT SCOOP NIGHT



The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and Baskin-Robbins® would like to thank everyone who participated in the Second Annual 31 Cent Scoop Night held on April 30, 2008, to benefit the NFFF and local fire service organizations nationwide.

This year's event was a tremendous success. Over 4

million scoops of ice cream were served in support of our firefighting heroes across the U.S.

Over 600 partnerships were created between local Baskin-Robbins® shops and fire service organizations. Your involvement made 31 Cent Scoop Night a special event for all of our guests. If you would like to share photos or a story from your local event please email them to webteam@firehero.org.

I am writing to tell you about my first experience with 31 Cent Scoop Night. Through all the preparations, I was not sure what to expect, and neither were my fellow firefighters. It has been six years since we have done such a large scale public relations event. I had full support from all five of our fire companies, but they did not know what to do. I simply told them, "Have fun with it."

We purchased balloons, stickers, and plastic fire helmets to give away. I made several storyboards about our department that included action shots and stories. I even made one about the Foundation and included Kevin's picture and story. Several Mahwah residents commented that they did not know we had a fallen firefighter. We had our firefighters scooping ice cream behind the counter. Members were showing off the gear and trucks, and others were just meandering through the crowd talking with people.

Each company was supposed to commit one hour, but all night long I had guys coming up to me asking if they could stay longer because they were having so much fun. In the end, I had almost my entire department there for the entire five hours. We served over 1,500 scoops and have already been asked to work with them again in the summer and during Fire Prevention Week to do more PR events. The night was definitely a success for everyone.

Pam Drozd, Mahwah (NJ) firefighter and sister of fallen firefighter Kevin Malone (1996-NJ)



The Family of Kevin Malone (1996-NJ)

HONORING.... HELEN KING



In May, Helen King's community held a "Love Program" in her honor at her church. Fellow Foundation Board member, Chief Mike Chiaramonte,

presented a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Foundation. If you know Helen, it will not surprise you to know that she is as involved in her home community as she has been with the Foundation. Over the years, Helen has been a member of the Foundation's Survivor Network, a volunteer during the Memorial Weekend, a member of the Foundation's Advisory Board, and a Foundation scholarship recipient, as well as the mother of two scholarship recipients! More than that, she is a loving, funny, and gracious person who has become a dear part of the Foundation family.

In the words of Helen's sister, Marilyn Allen:

Helen has worked for many years in her community helping others by giving benefits, programs, fundraisers, and working with the youth in her church. Not to forget her love for the Foundation, as well as working with the choirs in surrounding areas. I have watched her work until she could hardly make it, but she somehow pushes herself to make sure the project is finished. She has written plays that have gone on the road to other churches and schools. She talks about the Foundation constantly, so that I feel I already know you. She is proud to be a member of such a great organization, and we are glad that you guys picked her.



Our heartfelt thanks, love, and congratulations to Helen on this well-deserved honor!

CODE FEARLESS CONCERT HONORS FIREFIGHTERS



In May 22, 2008, the first Code Fearless Concert was held to honor our fallen heroes, their families, and all firefighters across the U.S. who have devoted their lives to serving their communities.

The event was held at the historic Roseland Ballroom in New York City and featured music of acclaimed rock band, Collective Soul; Downward Departure; and singer/songwriter Sam James. Special guests included officials of the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY), and survivor families of fallen firefighters. Several service members from the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps who were in the city for Fleet Week were also in attendance.

The Seal of Excellence Award was presented to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) under the leadership



of Chief Sal Cassano in recognition of the department-wide dedication to firefighter life safety and for joining our mission to make sure Everyone Goes Home®. "Through Chief Cassano's leadership, the creation of a Courage to Be Safe (SM) video tailored to the needs of FDNY was developed. This new video was produced by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in partnership with the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and will be shown in each FDNY station to ensure Everyone Goes Home®."

Chief Ron Siarnicki, executive director of the NFFF, and Billy Leahy, president of the New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation, presented the Code Fearless Award to the Monticello Joint Fire District. Monticello Joint Fire district is a newly formed department,

continued on back

2008-2009 SARBANES SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



The Foundation is very pleased to announce the award of 92 scholarships to children, stepchildren, and spouses of fallen fire heroes for the 2008-2009 school year, totaling nearly \$194,000. Funding for these scholarships was provided in part by the very generous support of the Motorola Foundation.

Some interesting statistics about this year's scholarship recipients:

- 49 have previously received Foundation scholarship awards; 43 are receiving one for the first time
- Their ages range from 18 to 55
- They come from 32 different states and will attend institutions in 26 different states
- 11 families had two scholarship recipients

The Foundation's scholarship partners, ICMA-RC and MasterGuard, awarded a total of \$35,000 to 14 recipients. The number of scholarships awarded per year has increased dramatically. Since the program was established in 1997, the Foundation has awarded scholarships totaling \$1,187,000. Since 2001, scholarship partners have awarded \$467,895.

For more information on our scholarship program, please visit the Benefits section of our Web site (www.firehero.org) or contact Bev Walter at the Foundation.

To all of the very deserving 2008-09 recipients, we wish you continued success in your studies this year. We are very proud of you.

My family and I would like to thank you and the Scholarship Committee for choosing me as one of your scholarship recipients. Your organization has played an enormous role in allowing me to complete my higher education. With this scholarship, I will be able to complete my final year of graduate school and earn my master's degree in Special Education.

Once again, I thank you and appreciate all the help that you offer to my family and all the families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty.

- Jessica Rivera, Scholarship Recipient
Daughter of Heriberto Rivera (CT-1990)

I wanted to tell you that Jessica Lynn Guyer graduated from UNC-Greensboro on May 16, 2008! She has been on the Dean's List for the last three semesters. We are so very, very proud of her. She has her degree in Special Education, and we are hoping that she will land a teaching position in our area. She wants to work with the severe and profound special needs children.

Kathryn is attending summer school at UNC-Chapel Hill, and we are so very appreciative again of her scholarship. She loves Carolina and is doing well.

I cannot thank you all enough for the support that you have given to all of us through the years. It has been a very long and hard road, but it has been so good to have the support of friends, family and the caring staff there who have made such a difference in our lives.

- Kathy Guyer-Martin
Wife of Mike Guyer (NC-1996) Mother of Jessica Guyer and Kathryn Guyer, Scholarship Recipient

REMEMBERING FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS...

Bob O'Toole (1998-OH)

January 12, 2008, marked the 10th anniversary of the accident that took the lives of Police Officer John Kalamian and Firefighter Bob O'Toole and critically injured Firefighter Chuck Arnold.

The community reacted wonderfully following the events ten years ago. A portion of highway and two streets have been named in honor of the two public safety officers. The Centerville (OH) Noon Optimist Club has bi-annual Police and Firefighter of the Year Awards in the names of the fallen safety personnel. There is a scholarship in Bob's name at Sinclair College for future paramedics.

There is legislation now in Ohio and other states that requires motorists to drop their speed and move to the furthest lane when encountering emergency service vehicles on the scene. Fire trucks are positioned across lanes of traffic to shield emergency crews and accident victims from further harm. As we remember these fine young men, we can only hope that these improvements and our constant attention and procedures will prevent another tragic accident.

-Ruth O'Toole, mother

Brian D. Myers, Sr. (1997-NY)

When Brian died in the line of duty on January 1, 1997, our world was forever changed. Schuylerville is a small village of 1,400 people, and Brian's wake and funeral, attended by over 5,000 people, were the largest in the village's history.

Brian had been employed at Hollingsworth & Vose for more than 26 years. H&V made a generous donation to Schuylerville Fire Department, which covered the expense of full dress uniforms for the entire department. They also erected a flag pole in memory of Brian.

Over the past ten years, we have honored Brian with remembrance services, two annual scholarships given to high school seniors, memorial bricks on the Walk of Honor in Emmitsburg, and by volunteering during the annual Memorial Weekend. We have produced steins, shirts, patches, pins, and decals in his memory. There is a street named for him.

Brian was a very humble and private man. I'm certain that he would be embarrassed by all the attention that he has received. In one newspaper article, a colleague of Brian's was quoted, "You couldn't find a better person in terms of fairness, love of family and community, forthrightness, and sense of humor." We keep Brian's memory alive in so many different ways. He will always be in our hearts and minds, and honoring him will continue.

- Ronalee Myers, wife

Sidney A. Hall (2007-IN)

My husband died January 5, 2007, and his funeral was on January 13. This year on January 13, my sons and I first had an Open House with pictures of Sidney. The pictures showed our life with him over the 23 ½ years we were married and the 17 and 21 years he had with our sons. It showed the boys going to the fire station and washing the fire trucks with their dad, or participating in the many parades where my husband drove the fire truck. This was a time to celebrate his life. We ended our time with

everyone (firefighters from around Indiana, other family members of fallen firefighters, the community, friends, family, and many more) having a candle lighting service. It meant so much to us. We wanted this candle lighting to be a time of remembrance, and also a time to say that we will always carry on for my husband and will never forget him. Many people came up to me later and said they were so glad that we had done this and how much it meant to them.

- Bonnie Hall, wife

Please tell us how your department or family has paid tribute to your fire hero.

Send to: Jenny Woodall at jwoodall@firehero.org or by mail to the Foundation's address. We love hearing from you!

2008 MEMORIAL WEEKEND



The 2008 Memorial Weekend will be held October 3-5, 2008, on the campus of the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The Weekend will honor firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2007, as well as those from previous years who meet the criteria for inclusion and have not previously been honored.

If your loved one will be honored this year, you should have received an invitation package to attend the Weekend. Though official due dates for sending in paperwork have passed, please contact us as soon as possible if you would like to attend. Many people have questions or concerns

about the Weekend, and we are happy to talk with you about what to expect. We can also put you in touch with another survivor who has had a loved one honored at the National Memorial.

We also invite all those whose loved ones have been honored in previous years to attend Weekend events and to volunteer during the Weekend in a variety of ways.

For more information, please contact the Foundation or go to weekend.firehero.org. We hope to see you in Emmitsburg!



NASCAR *continued from cover*

of the fire service,” said Mark Rossi, vice president of sales & marketing for Dover Motorsports, Inc. “So much of their time is spent focusing on the life threatening issues that they encounter on a daily basis. To be able to raise funds for this worthy cause, while providing them with the opportunity to attend a race with their peers is a win-win.”

“The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is excited

and pleased to join forces with Dover International Speedway to recognize the great work our fire service community performs and to ensure we never forget the sacrifices our fallen firefighters have made in service to their communities,” added Ron Siarnicki, executive director of the NFFF.

For more information and to download the event flyer, go to www.firehero.org and click on the link on the front page.

NATIONWIDE GOLF TOURNAMENTS BENEFIT NFFF



inally, Friday, June 13, arrived. Most would never wish for that particular date, as its moniker spells trouble. Not so, though, for our 5th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

Golf Tournament held at Mtn. View and Carroll Valley Golf Courses in Fairfield, PA. Wow what a day it was! While

very warm, it was not stifling hot (thank heavens) as it was earlier in the week! With much preparatory work completed at both courses on Thursday, the staff and volunteers for the Foundation literally hit the ground running on Friday morning! The things to do that morning were too exhaustive to list; however, there was action everywhere. From set up of registration tables, signup sheets and instructions made ready, pop up tents on the courses, table clothes, Volunteer assignments made, prizes to unload and mark, stage platform to lay down, ice to pick up and beverage dispensers to distribute, Sponsor signs to place, Raffle prizes to ID, the ever greatest “Silent Auction Table” to be set up,—and on and on and on! We watched with great pride the hard work at both courses to ensure everything went as planned and needed. It was a terrific day and tournament for those who attended, ultimately helping surviving family and loved ones of fallen firefighters. We did well with 144 golfers and approximately 220 for a fine dinner and awards/prizes. Great weather with great supporters and volunteers helping throughout the day.

During the week, 22 of the 24 total Golf Tournaments that spanned the Nation were held; and, clearly, it was a terrific week of golf and fundraising for the Foundation. To those who helped with the regional tournaments, the NFFF Golf Committee, the Foundation staff, including



NFFF’s Chairman Dennis Compton and Executive Director Ron Siarnicki, all want to let you know how much we truly appreciate your help and support for hosting a tournament in your region. Each in your own way helped make our Regional Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournaments at all locations another great fundraiser for the Foundation!

What a week! All because of your commitment and support

of the Foundation, which has the same commitment for the surviving families and loved ones of fallen firefighters. Thanks for making a difference for them.

And a great big “thank you” to all of the individuals and corporations who were sponsors of the tournament—both at Emmitsburg and across the country. We could

not have had the success that we did without your continued support of this project.

It is anticipated that we will expand in 2009 to 40+ sites and, moreover, place additional emphasis and focus on reducing line-of-duty deaths and provide greater financial support for NFFF family support programs. This year our coordinators were able to net approximately \$200,000 for NFFF family support programs.

If you would like to join our NFFF Golf partnership, please contact Phil at: pmclaughlin@firehero.org. We will forward an NFFF Golf IAP that we use at our Emmitsburg site to assist you in setting up your tournament. In 2009, our NFFF Golf Week will be June 8-12, with Friday, June 12, as our primary tournament date if possible.

*Charlie Dickinson, Co-Host
Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire
Fire Chief, Retired*

*Phil McLaughlin, Co-Host
Philadelphia Fire Department
Deputy Commissioner, Retired*



NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.FIREHERO.ORG

Survivor Benefits Guide

The Foundation developed a Benefits Guide to help survivors stay organized as they navigate through the process of applying for benefits. The guide is available as a downloadable pdf document from the Foundation's Web site, or you can request a paper copy by contacting the Foundation. If you need additional support, we can put you in touch with another survivor who is familiar

with the benefits process. Contact Linda Hurley for more information at lhurley@firehero.org or (301) 447-7693.

Special thanks to all the survivors who shared their "lessons learned" and gave the guide their critical review through the development process. Your feedback has been invaluable, and we hope that it will make the process easier for others.

Attorney General's Guide to the Hometown Heroes Survivors' Benefits Act

This important resource is now available as a pdf document through the Foundation's Web site. To

download this for your reference, go to www.firehero.org and click on the link on the front page.

CODE FEARLESS CONCERT *continued from inside*

replacing a former village department in southern New York. The Monticello Fire Department has developed and embraced many programs to help keep firefighters safe. In 2006, they adopted the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives and the Everyone Goes Home® Program. They also started the first rapid intervention team in their county and developed a stress

debriefing team, which is called upon for counseling services for their membership and neighboring organizations.

We would like to thank everyone who came out to support the event and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Proceeds from this concert will benefit the programs of the Foundation.

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National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
Post Office Drawer 498
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
(301) 447-1365 • (301) 447-1645 Fax
www.firehero.org
e-mail: firehero@firehero.org

