

# SAVE THE DATE!

**October 5-7, 2012**

*31st Annual National Fallen  
Firefighters Memorial Weekend*

Emmitsburg, Maryland

[weekend.firehero.org](http://weekend.firehero.org)

Watch the Memorial Service live  
online at [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org)



**December 13, 2012**

*Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony*

Emmitsburg, Maryland

**April 14-17, 2013**

*Fire Service Survivors Conference*

Phoenix, Arizona

**June 21-23, 2013**

*Hal Bruno Camp for Children of  
Fallen Firefighters*

Camp Hanover –  
Mechanicsville, VA

**August 8-11, 2013**

*Hal Bruno Camp for Children of  
Fallen Firefighters*

Nickelodeon Suites Resort –  
Orlando, FL

For additional information on upcoming events, such as 9-11 Stair Climbs and Golf Tournaments in your area,  
please visit [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org).

This project was supported by Grant #2012-PS-DX-0001, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author(s) and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.

HELP US stay in touch.  
Please remember to notify us at [firehero@firehero.org](mailto:firehero@firehero.org)  
when you have a change of mailing or e-mail address!

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# FACING TOMORROW TOGETHER

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation  
A Newsletter for Fire Service Survivors



## HAL BRUNO CAMPS FOR CHILDREN OF FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS



Many adults have fond memories of camp as a place for kids to make new friends, try different activities, and explore new possibilities.

Now, a unique camp program for children, stepchildren, and siblings of firefighters who died in the line of duty will provide all these opportunities, as well as the special comfort and support that they need to cope with their loss.

The camp program is named in honor of Hal Bruno, Chairman Emeritus of the Foundation, who passed away in 2011. For more than 60 years, Hal Bruno served as an active member of the fire service community, giving selflessly as a dedicated volunteer firefighter, advocate,

commentator and leader. "Hal was wholly dedicated to helping the survivors find the support and comfort they need as they rebuild their lives following the death of their firefighter," said Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, Executive Director of the NFFF. "For the Foundation to offer a fun and therapeutic camp just for the children of the fallen would make him very proud."

In addition to covering costs for the children, the Foundation also provided lodging and meals, and assisted with travel expenses for parents. For more information about attending or volunteering at a future camp, please contact Linda Hurley at [lhurley@firehero.org](mailto:lhurley@firehero.org) or (301) 447-7693.

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# SECOND ANNUAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7



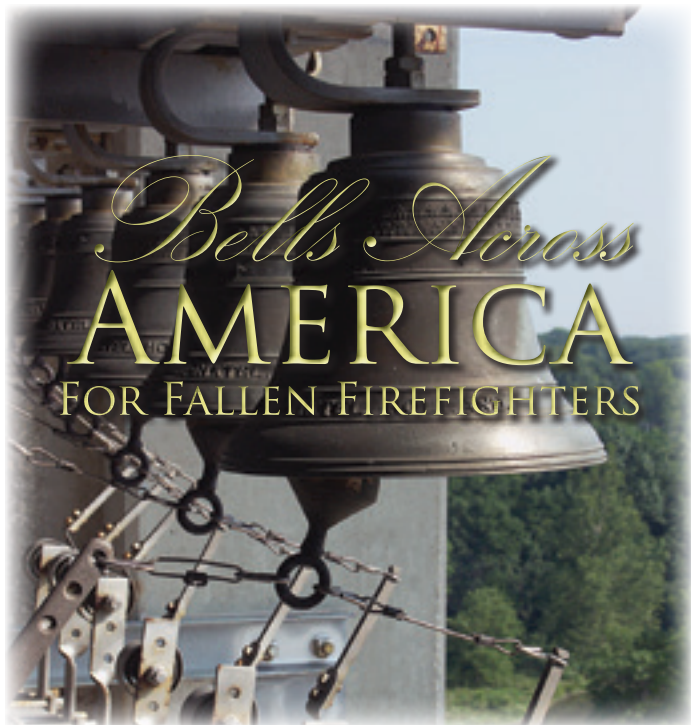
Bells will ring from coast to coast as a grateful nation pauses on Sunday, October 7, to honor those firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2011.

Fire departments, places of worship, and community groups around the country will join the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) for the second annual Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters, part of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

As the Memorial Service begins, the bells at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel in Emmitsburg will ring to honor the memories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in 2011, and to honor the survivors and reassure them that their loved ones will never be forgotten.

“We are encouraging firefighters to invite their places of worship or other community groups to join us with their own tribute to our fallen heroes,” said Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, executive director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. “We also hope the loved ones of the fallen and supporters of the Foundation will contact their fire departments, clergy and civic leaders to ask them to participate in this special remembrance.”

The moment of remembrance can occur at any time during the Memorial Weekend, October 6 & 7. Fire department representatives are encouraged to work with their clergy and community leaders to develop an appropriate tribute. Some suggestions include: ringing chapel bells,



a moment of silence, a brief prayer, a hymn, or tolling a ceremonial bell by members of the fire department.

Nearly 100 fire departments coordinated services for the first Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters in 2011.

For more information about Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters, please visit [www.BellsAcrossAmerica.com](http://www.BellsAcrossAmerica.com). If you have questions or need additional information, please send an email to [bells@firehero.org](mailto:bells@firehero.org). ■



## WEBCAM AT THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL



Do you ever wish you could see the National Memorial again or show friends and family the beautiful campus where your firefighter is honored? Now you can do this from the comfort of your own home!

A webcam has been installed on the campus of the National Emergency Training Center that overlooks the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. This will allow survivors and others to see the status of the flags and what is happening at the Memorial 24/7. To link to the webcam from the NFFF website, go to: [www.firehero.org/camera.html](http://www.firehero.org/camera.html)



# 2012-2013 FOUNDATION SARBANES SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Congratulations to the 82 survivors who were recently awarded scholarships through the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Sarbanes Scholarship Program. For the 2012-2013 academic year the Foundation, in partnership with the Motorola Foundation, awarded \$220,005 total in scholarships. In addition, our partnership with ICMA-RC awarded \$15,000 to 15 recipients, and Global Health & Safety awarded four \$2,000 scholarships for a total of \$8,000. The Foundation and its partners combined awarded \$243,005.

The scholarship recipients come from 28 different states and range in age from 18 to 37. They are preparing for careers in fields ranging from aerospace engineering to criminal justice. Seven recipients are enrolled in fire science programs.

The Sarbanes Scholarship Program is open to eligible children, stepchildren, spouses, and life partners of firefighters who have been honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Since 1997, the Foundation has awarded nearly two million dollars in scholarships to fire service survivors.

For more information about the Sarbanes Scholarship Program, visit [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org).

*I am honored to be chosen for the National Fallen Firefighters Scholarship. It truly means so much to my family and I. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for choosing me for such a prestigious award. The money will go to good use as I excel through my sophomore year of college. My father was a great man and a great firefighter. It's so sad that his life was cut short, but I truly appreciate the recognition and support that you show for people in our situation. That you're supporting one of your own.*

Thank you,  
Kyle Stanley

*I would like to thank the National Fallen Firefighters Paul Sarbanes Scholarship program for selecting my son Kyle as a recipient. Kyle was very honored and excited as the money will help greatly, along with the fact that it gave him a connection with his father.*

*Kyle's dad died when he was three years old, due to an injury related to his job as a firefighter. I had three young children and couldn't save for their college education.*

*Kyle is a great young man who has excelled though a lot of adversities in his life, and I know he will continue to excel in college.*

*Thank you again for helping Kyle out. He's been considering joining the Air Force, as his older brother did, because of the cost of a higher education. This scholarship means a lot and is a financial help. I really appreciate it*

Sincerely,  
Dianne Stanley-Sawyer





*Thank you again to all of you who made this camp possible for us! We had such a great experience. It was wonderful to be safe with other families in similar situations and to be surrounded by caring members of the fire service family. It is an experience we will never forget.*

~Parent, Florida camp

*This camp is a way for a child to know that their firefighter is remembered! Meeting other kids in their same circumstances is very healing. Every single person we encountered with Comfort Zone Camp and the NFFF is completely and totally invested in the children's wellbeing.*

~Parent, Virginia camp

*I am very HAPPY to report that my daughter has been more relaxed about talking about her dad. The camp helped relieve some of the pressure she felt about keeping her grief hidden. She has been much more open.*

~Parent, Virginia camp

*Here's what I liked about camp: meeting new friends, doing new things, and playing games. And I really enjoyed my Big Buddy.*

~Camper, age 7, Virginia camp

*I had fun at camp playing games and playing with the other kids. I was sad to leave.*

~Camper, age 6, Florida camp

*When I read the schedule, I thought "Healing Circles" was going to be stupid and boring, but that was one of my favorite things at camp.*

~Camper, age 12, Virginia camp

# HAL BRUNO CAMP OF FALLEN F

*continued*

## VIRGINIA CAMP HOSTS INAUGURAL SESSION OF HAL BRUNO CAMP

In June, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), in partnership with Comfort Zone Camps, held the first session of the Hal Bruno Camp for Children of Fallen Firefighters. Twenty-one children between the ages of 7 and 17 whose fathers died in the line of duty attended the camp held at Camp Hanover in Mechanicsville, Virginia. The weekend of fun and structured activities provided children from across the country the opportunity to meet others in their age group with similar experiences. They were able to share their stories, learn skills to cope with their loss, receive one-on-one support from a Big Buddy, and have time to reflect and remember their parents in a positive and nurturing environment.

In addition to covering the costs for the campers, the Foundation provided lodging near the campsite and local transportation for the parents so they could enjoy some downtime and provide support to one another.

Everyone who participated in the camp—campers, parents, staff, and volunteers—found something valuable



# CAMPS FOR CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS

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about their experience. Many are already looking forward to the next camp.

## FLORIDA CAMP OFFERS COMFORT AND THE “SLIME” OF THEIR LIFE

The second Hal Bruno Camp for Children of Fallen Firefighters was held in August at the Nickelodeon Suites Resort in Orlando, Florida. This weekend bereavement camp for children and stepchildren, ages 4-6, provided an opportunity for children from across the country to meet with others in their age group who had a firefighter parent die in the line of duty.

Structured activities provided a therapeutic component in combination with a fun setting, allowing children to process their grief in a fun and safe environment. Meetings with parents focused on how to help children who are grieving.

The children were able to have meals and photos taken with their favorite Nickelodeon characters, swim in the pool/water park and enjoy live shows in Studio Nick. Even better, they each got slimed! ■



*At first I didn't want to go, but I loved going. I made new friends. We all bonded in special ways that even I can't explain. You should definitely give this camp a chance!*

-Camper, age 15, Virginia camp

*Through the course of the weekend, I witnessed my group go from awkward, quiet, and apprehensive, to being carefree, laughing, and playing and, most importantly, being a kid. Through this they became comfortable enough to speak frankly about their pain and experiences. At times they cried, but most of the time they laughed. I saw boys telling their new friends, "It's OK, I understand," in between their own tears. I watched young minds grasping what grief was all about and that it was OK to feel the way they did. Then I watched them learn and understand ways to deal with their grief. I had the rare and awesome privilege of seeing young lives truly transformed!*

*I've been a firefighter/paramedic for 20 years. I've taken thousands of calls and seen things in a given week that most people wouldn't see in a lifetime. I got into this job because I wanted to make a difference in other people's lives. I can tell you that nothing I have seen or been a part of has come close to the weekend at camp. Never before have I felt like such a difference was made. I can think of no better way to honor our brothers and sisters who gave their lives than to help their children, and ultimately their families, to understand and overcome their grief and to give them the tools and the friends to have an awesome future.*

-Fire Service Volunteer, Virginia camp



# TEXAS SURVIVORS UNITE IN CENTRAL TEXAS

By Laurie Tilton Anderson,  
Daughter of Gary Tilton (2004-TX)



What do you get when you bring together 51 Survivors from all over the state of Texas? You get the first annual Texas Fallen Heroes Family Retreat. It was held June 1-3, 2012,

in the central Texas town of New Braunfels at the T Bar M Resort. It was a great weekend filled with fun, family, and the fire service.

The weekend kicked off on Friday with dinner, ice cream sundaes, kids' activities, and a chance to decompress from life's hectic pace. Saturday brought day trips to Schlitterbaun Water Park, shopping in historic Gruene, Texas, cavern exploration at Natural Bridge Caverns, and a Hill Country wine tasting tour. The New Braunfels Pipes & Drums Band entertained everyone Saturday evening with a special performance. The evening was capped off with s'mores by the fireside and an outdoor movie. By Sunday morning's breakfast everyone who attended was already counting down until next year.



The retreat gave us a chance to see friends we hadn't seen since the last NFFF Memorial Weekend or Survivors Conference, to reunite with those we haven't seen in a while, and to meet and connect with those we hadn't met before. The Texas LODD Task Force and local fire departments really came together to make this a special weekend for all of us!

Want more information about future survivor retreats? Go to <http://texasloddtaskforce.com/family-network> or contact Wendy Norris at [wendy@texasloddtaskforce.com](mailto:wendy@texasloddtaskforce.com).

*Are there survivor events happening in your state, or groups of survivors in your area who get together from time to time? Let us know so we can help spread the word to others who may be interested!* ■

# PARENTS & SIBLINGS MEET IN MARYLAND



When a married firefighter dies in the line of duty, a lot of attention is focused on the spouse and children. We have heard from parents and siblings that they

often feel like "the forgotten ones."

In June, the Foundation conducted a Parents & Siblings Focus Group in National Harbor, Maryland, to gather information from the families regarding the types of support that would be most helpful for them. Thirty-one survivors attended, including families who lost a firefighter in the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks on the World Trade Center.

Topics of discussion included styles of grieving, how death affects family dynamics, what was helpful or harmful in dealing with grief, and how the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation can help parents and siblings.

The Foundation gained valuable insight that will enable us to develop future programs. Those attending



expressed appreciation that they were acknowledged, had a place to voice their concerns, and had the valuable opportunity to connect with one another. In the words of one attendee:

*“Thank you for making it possible for us to meet with other parents and siblings for that special weekend. We had some free time to spend getting to know other survivors and reconnecting with some we already knew. That was wonderful, and I hope we helped each other – I know they did us.” ■*



## Remembering FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS



### Remembering Joseph Ogren and all FDNY Firefighters Who Died on 9/11

**M**y name is Bob Ogren, and I am a retired New York City fireman. My son, Joseph J. Ogren, was a fireman assigned to Ladder Company 3 in lower Manhattan. The Lad 3 rig was chosen to be lowered into the museum located on the property. My son was working the day tour on 9/11. The day tour and the night tour responded to the alarm, and all were lost. Joseph was a graduate of St John’s University and was studying for the lieutenant’s test and had a good shot at making it. He was determined to show his abilities in the best way that he could, and I know he would have done it.

I moved to the Villages in central Florida 5 years ago. It’s a golf cart community, and just about everybody has a golf cart. My idea was to have one made and try to make it resemble a fire engine. I had the pictures of the 343 FDNY firemen that died on 9/11 put on two pieces of aluminum, with 172 pictures on one side and 171 on the other side. The frame was made to hold the pictures. It took about 4 months to finish. They

did their best to honor my wishes, and I was pleased with the finished product. Thus the Memorial Cart was made. When finished, it meant so much to me that I told the company that I couldn’t use this on a golf course, and they gave me a used cart to use for golf.

I try to take it wherever it is wanted. I’ve been to New York at various times. I was there when the Pope went down to Ground Zero. I’ve been to two St. Patrick’s Day Parades in Staten Island. I took the cart to Washington, DC, for their 2011 Memorial Day Parade, as the families of 9/11 were invited to be part of the parade. Also on that weekend, motorcycle groups were invited to ride in support of the troops. Over 200,000 motorcycles took part in this tribute. I

was parked alongside the route, and over 200,000 saw the memorial cart, waving and showing their support. I went to New York for the 10 year anniversary of 9/11, spending 3 weeks there for different ceremonies.

The cart is a tribute to the 343 Brave FDNY

Brothers that gave their all, and for me to show that we will, NEVER FORGET.

*NOTE: Special thanks to Mr. Ogren for graciously bringing the Memorial Cart to the Parents & Siblings Focus Group in June. ■*

