

## SAVE THE DATE!

**September 29, 2013**

*6th Annual Firefighter Appreciation Event  
NASCAR Sprint Cup Series*  
Dover International Speedway, Dover, DE  
<http://fireheroracing.com/dover.html>

**October 4–6, 2013**

*32<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Fallen Firefighters  
Memorial Weekend*  
Emmitsburg, Maryland  
[weekend.firehero.org](http://weekend.firehero.org)



**December 12, 2013 • 6 p.m.**

*Survivor Tree Lighting*  
Fallen Firefighters Memorial  
Chapel  
Emmitsburg, Maryland

**May 4–7, 2014**

*Fire Service Survivors Conference*  
Clayton, Missouri

For information on upcoming events, 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!

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



# FACING TOMORROW TOGETHER

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

A Newsletter for Fire Service Survivors



## BELLS ACROSS AMERICA FOR FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS



For the third year, the entire country is invited to come together as one community to honor the memory of firefighters who died in the line of duty and reassure their loved ones that their firefighter will not be forgotten.

Fire departments, places of worship, community organizations and individuals from coast to coast will join the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in this poignant tribute, *Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters*, as part of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

“The ringing of bells has a powerful meaning to firefighters. Not only do bells signal the beginning or end of a call, they also were used to notify department members that one of their own had died while serving the community,” explained Chief Ronald Siarnicki, executive director of the NFFF. “At the beginning of the Memorial Service on Sunday,

October 6, 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 2012. We are encouraging firefighters across the country to invite their places of worship and community organizations to join us with their own tribute to all our fallen heroes.”

The moment of remembrance can occur at any time on October 5 or 6. Fire department representatives are encouraged to work with local 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.

Hundreds of fire departments, places of worship, and other groups have participated in *Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters* over the past two years. For more information about participating, please visit [www.BellsAcrossAmerica.com](http://www.BellsAcrossAmerica.com). ■

# REMEMBERING THE OTHER VICTIMS OF LODDs

*Reprinted from the August 2013 issue of Fire Chief magazine*



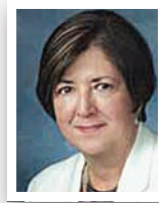
Three weeks after 19 firefighters were killed in the Yarnell Hill Fire, Prescott Valley (Ariz.) Fire Capt. Joe Kelley and Central Yavapai Fire District Engineer Bob Curry faced a tough decision — whether to hold the fifth-annual Northern Arizona National Fallen Firefighters Foundation golf tournament scheduled for Sept. 14 or cancel the event.

Kelley said he and Curry are late in promoting and organizing this year's event because of the memorial and funerals for the hotshots, but they decided to hold the event "in honor of our 19 heroes," he said.

The Prescott Valley tournament is one of 30 golf tournaments held across the U.S. to raise money for the NFFF programs, which include the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial weekend, Fire Service Survivor Conferences, the Camp for Children of Fallen Firefighters and scholarships. The NFFF also supports and educates fire departments with Everyone Goes Home, Local Assistance State Teams and Taking Care of Our Own programs. Each of these programs costs money, though most are run by volunteers.

The NFFF was created in 1992 to honor fallen firefighters and assist their surviving family members and coworkers. The organization has expanded and grown in services they provide to families, but also to fire departments. In 2004, the NFFF brought together industry leaders to develop programs to change the fire service culture and become proactive in firefighter safety.

At press time, the number of firefighter line-of-duty deaths was 69, just 14 fewer than in all of 2012. A fourth-consecutive year of declining LODDs seems unlikely.



Written by JANET WILMOTH, FIRE CHIEF's associate publisher. Follow her on Twitter at [twitter.com/JanetWilmothFC/](https://twitter.com/JanetWilmothFC/) and read her weekly commentaries every week in CommandPost. Wilmoth can be reached at [Janet@FireChief.com](mailto:Janet@FireChief.com).

But what we sometimes forget after an LODD is that "losing a firefighter creates more survivors," said Mike Falese, chief of the Bartlett Fire Protection District and president of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association.

The association recently supported the Illinois Firefighter Life Safety Task Force in hosting the first Illinois Survivors' Conference. The NFFF hosts an annual National Survivors' Conference, but Illinois is only the second to host a state conference. There, 25 wives, parents, siblings and coworkers gathered to learn about the services offered by NFFF, but primarily they were there to network with other survivors.

Among the attendees in the room were a woman who lost her firefighter husband in 1955 and a firefighter who lost his father in a fire and lost a co-worker two years later. "We didn't mean to join this group, but I'm glad to be here," said the wife of a Chicago fallen firefighter.

This year, a series of multiple-fatality incidents — in Houston and West, Texas, and then in Prescott, Ariz. — has left a staggering number of spouses, family and coworkers all struggling to understand and survive the sudden loss of their loved ones. In this issue, NFFF Executive Director Ron Siarnicki describes the organization's response to the West tragedy. (See page 24.)

As the numbers of LODD survivors grows, so does the need to provide services. Many fire departments have organized fund-raising efforts for the NFFF programs. Stair climbs and golf tournaments each contribute to the funding. Pierce Mfg. and Ford Motor Co. have combined efforts and are offering a raffle of a specially decorated Ford F-150 pickup truck, to be featured this month at Fire-Rescue International. All proceeds will benefit the NFFF.

In 2009, Kelley never dreamed that organizing a golf tournament would one day benefit the surviving family members of his peers. The fire service truly is a family and unlike any other profession. ■



# Remembering

## FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS



### Brian Munz (2008-IL)



Brian Munz lost his life fighting a fire on July 22, 2008. He was 24 years old. Brian will not be forgotten in his hometown of Fairbury, Illinois.

The town has raised over \$300,000, and the voters approved issuing \$500,000 in bonds to finance construction of the Brian J. Munz Safety Complex. The new facility will house the SELCAS ambulance service and the Fairbury Fire Department. Brian was very dedicated to training, and the new facility will have a place for training as well as some new equipment.

The groundbreaking service was held on July 2, 2013. Brian's dad, Jim; his mom, Karen; and his brother, Greg; broke ground in the presence of fellow firemen, ambulance staff, family, friends, and townspeople. ■



## 2013-2014 FOUNDATION SARBANES SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Once again this year, a wonderful and very deserving group of survivors received help in pursuing their dreams through the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Sarbanes Scholarship Program. With help from a generous donation from the Motorola Foundation, the NFFF and its scholarship partners, ICMA-RC, National Association of State Fire Marshals, and Global Health and Safety, awarded a total of \$246,468 in scholarships to 82 children, stepchildren, and spouses of fallen firefighters. Here are a few interesting facts about this diverse and talented group:

- Of the 82 recipients, 55 are previous recipients and 27 received scholarships for the first time
- The ages of scholarship recipients range from 18 to 53
- Scholarship recipients come from 29 different states and will attend institutions in 35 different states
- Scholarship recipients are preparing for careers ranging from nursing to aerospace engineering, and three recipients are enrolled in a fire science program

The NFFF has awarded a total of more than \$2.2 million in scholarships since the program was created in 1997, and our partners have awarded more than \$600,000.

If you are the child, stepchild, spouse, or life partner of a firefighter who has been honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, please visit [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org) to learn more about our scholarship program. We would love to help you pursue your dreams!

### 2013-2014 Scholarship Recipients Say Thank You

*Thank you very much for choosing me as a scholarship recipient. I have been grateful for this support every year! It's an honor to carry on my dad's legacy through education that is funded so generously by the Foundation. I very much appreciate this!*



Kevin Moore, son of Tom Moore (1999-CA)  
Studying Christian Ministry



*Good morning and thank you from the bottom of my heart. The foundation has undoubtedly made a profound effect on my life from this point on and I will forever be in debt and grateful for the opportunity that has been provided.*

Jeff Dame, son of James Dame (1991-WY)  
Studying Organizational Management

*Thank you so much on (my son) Kieran's behalf. It is well deserved on his part. He is a great, hardworking kid who is currently volunteering in Kenya at an orphanage for 1,000 kids displaced due to losing their parents to HIV/AIDS. No running water. I don't know how he does it!*



Marie Halloran, wife of Vincent Halloran (2001-NY)  
Kieran Halloran is studying Foreign Affairs & Diplomacy



# 2013 HAL BRUNO CAMPS FOR CHILDREN OF F



uring the summer of 2013, the NFFF held two separate camps for children of fallen firefighters.

The first camp was held in partnership with Comfort Zone Camp from June 7 – 9 at Westview on the James in Virginia, for children ages 7-17. Thirty-five children from around the country came together for friendship, laughter and healing, free of charge to the families. The children were introduced to their fire service “Big Buddies” through icebreaker games and activities which set the tone for an action packed weekend. Campers and their Big Buddies participated in activities that taught cooperation, trust, communication, sharing, and just plain fun. They participated in Healing Circles, where each camper could share as much or as little about their experiences and listen as other campers shared their stories. Kids came to camp as individuals—some stoic, uncertain, and apprehensive. When they left camp, they were more like a family—sharing jokes, memories, contact information, and hugs.



# ALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

The NFFF/Nickelodeon Kids Camp for children ages 4-6 was held August 9-11 at the Nickelodeon Suites Resort in Orlando, Florida. Eight children attended the second year of the camp and had the opportunity to meet characters including SpongeBob SquarePants, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and Dora the Explorer! The children, along with their Big Buddies, were contestants in a special Double Dare game show and had the opportunity to be “slimed” by green goo! Along with the fun came quieter times for sharing stories and memories about their firefighters.

Watching what occurs as these camps unfold is an incredible experience! The kids interacting with their Big Buddies, the bonds that are created among the campers, and the growth that comes from their knowing that they are not alone. It’s an amazing process to behold.

Hal Bruno would be so pleased to see what a wonderful legacy he helped create for these children. ■



## NICKELODEON RESORT SUITES

Nickelodeon Resort Suites in Orlando, Florida, has been a corporate partner of the Foundation since 2010. In addition to hosting our Hal Bruno Camp for Children of Fallen Firefighters for our younger children, Nickelodeon provides a HERO discount for firefighters, EMTs and police officers. On October weekends, Nick or Treat your way through their spooktacular resort, meet Nickelodeon characters dressed up for the occasion, play ghoulish games, or get your party on at the Spooky Splash Bash. There’s an activity for the little (and big) goblins in every family.

Check out the Nick or Treat information at this link for the HEROES program: <http://www.nickhotel.com/special-pkg/hero-package.aspx>.



# FIRE SERVICE CORNER

By Victor Stagnaro, *Director of Fire Service Programs*



## LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVE #7

*Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives.*



In 2004, when the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives were created, a group of fire service leaders pointed out that there should be a guide for researchers to use to develop new technologies to improve firefighter safety. In addition, the group recognized the need to develop consistent data collection systems to better track line-of-duty injuries and fatalities, as well as ways to improve fire department operations.

In 2005 and 2011, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation hosted Research Agenda Symposiums. Both events were highly successful in identifying areas of possible research with a focus on firefighter safety. The reports can be downloaded from the Resources section of [www.EveryoneGoesHome.com](http://www.EveryoneGoesHome.com). Highlights of the last research agenda symposium include the following recommendations:

### COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION:

Creation of a community-scale model that evaluates fire prevention and response programs and quantifies their ability to produce a potentially positive outcome. This may include data pertaining to: occupancy types and numbers of each, fire prevention, codes adoption, mitigation, response, and recovery.

### WILDLAND:

Development of safe and reliable aircraft operations for suppression and team transportation to reduce wildland firefighting injuries and fatalities.

### DATA COLLECTION:

Identification of cultural perception of data collection and barriers to capture of quality data.



### TECHNOLOGY AND FIRE SERVICE SCIENCE:

Development of data, implementation of transfer mechanisms, and updating of standards that will enable firefighters to learn the science and utilize the technology required to respond to the changing fire conditions in our modern built environment.

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

Effectiveness of intervention and screening for health and disease related to firefighter wellness and fitness.

### SERVICE DELIVERY:

Development of a scientifically-based community risk assessment tool.

### TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT:

Assessment of current PPE (entire ensemble) performance, functionality and related safety features for today's fire environment.

Ultimately, the 41 recommendations contained in this report should serve as a roadmap for all researchers and applied scientists who are interested in firefighter safety and survivability.

An ongoing concern within the fire service has been the need to collect data and to make operational decisions based on empirical data, as opposed to anecdotal or theory-based information. Although experience and a thorough knowledge base of information is vital to emergency operations, we live in a time when city managers, political leaders, and budget analysts require empirical data to justify the use of public funds. With the assistance of our partners, Honeywell and the United States Fire Administration, the Foundation is working on a Vulnerability Assessment Program (VAP). The VAP will give fire service leaders the ability to input information in a web-based program to help them identify vulnerabilities that may lead to firefighter injuries or fatalities. ■



# HELP KEEP YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS SAFE

With Just One Click You Can  
“Be A Hero, Save A Hero®”



One click can make a difference in the lives of your loved ones and the firefighters who protect your community. The national campaign, “Be a Hero, Save a Hero®,” led by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) with support from Kidde Fire Safety, encourages everyone to reduce the risks that firefighters face to protect their communities. The main aspect of the campaign is the Alarm Pledge which calls for homeowners to ensure their homes have up-to-date and working fire safety equipment and that their families practice a home fire escape plan.

Firefighters and the public can go to [www.alarmpledge.com](http://www.alarmpledge.com) and share the pledge on Facebook or Twitter. For each person who takes the pledge and “Likes” or “Tweets” about it, Kidde will donate \$1 to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and Help the Good Guys®, up to \$10,000 to each organization.

“Properly working smoke alarms and a home fire escape plan keeps residents and firefighters out of harm’s way,” said Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, executive director of the NFFF. “We are very pleased to partner with Kidde on this important public safety program.”

The Be a Hero, Save a Hero® campaign launched last November with a multi-faceted campaign surrounding the CMA Music Awards in Nashville. A public service announcement featuring country music singer and former American Idol finalist, Bucky Covington, premiered that evening on the ABC broadcast while fire service leaders attended the press event at the downtown Nashville Fire Department. More than 20,000 Facebook fans liked/shared the pledge during the efforts’ social media campaign, which was awarded a PR News Social Media Icon Awards for Social Good Campaign.

“Firefighters put their lives on the line every time they answer a call, and the risk increases if they have to enter a burning home to rescue those inside,” said Neal Zipser, community affairs manager for Kidde, the leading manufacturer of fire safety products. “By doing what we can to raise awareness of the Alarm Pledge, we hope that more people will equip their homes with the latest fire safety technology, such as new smoke alarms, in order to give themselves an early warning when a fire is detected.”

The groups continue to raise awareness this year with a national radio public service announcement, voiced by country superstar Kix Brooks, an event at the CMA Fan Festival in June as well as interactions at industry fire shows and monthly Facebook campaigns. ■

## NFA APPROVES FOUNDATION TRAINING PROGRAMS!



Working with the North American Fire Training Directors, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation submitted two training programs for firefighters—Courage To Be Safe® and Leadership,

Accountability, Culture, Knowledge (LACK)—to the National Fire Academy (NFA) to be considered for their approved training class list. This has several benefits. As approved courses are eligible for NFA certificates of completion, federal grants for training from the NFA can be used to offer these programs. It also requires a partnership with the state fire training entity to assist in accomplishing the programs, as they are the official agent of the NFA.

It was a long process, but after many months of waiting and “checking in” we received word that the two courses have been approved! Great news! This is another way we can assure that these key safety lessons are made even more accessible to the United States fire service. The next step in this process is to establish protocols for the delivery, which we’ll be working on at a meeting with the North American Fire Training Directors in September.

A special thanks to the Bureau of Fire Service Training in Iowa, under the direction of Bureau Chief Randy Novak, for their diligence and tenacity to assure these programs were approved. ■

## NFFF EARNS 4-STAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR

Charity Navigator, America’s leading independent charity evaluator, has awarded 4 stars to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency. The 4-star rating for exceptional performance is Charity Navigator’s highest distinction and places the NFFF within the top 29% of all charities in the United States rated on fiscal responsibility. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation uses more than 90% of its total budget on the delivery of programs and services to honor America’s fallen fire heroes and assist their survivors. ■





# GOLF COORDINATOR PAUL RIEDEL WINS HONOR



We are proud to announce that on September 18, 2013, Firefighter/Paramedic Paul Riedel of Colerain Township (OH) Fire & EMS will be awarded the 2013 Ohio Fire Service Distinguished Service Award. This honor is given to an individual or group that has performed outstanding services to the citizens of Ohio or to the fire service in general. Paul is being recognized for his volunteer efforts as coordinator for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Greater Cincinnati Regional Golf Outing.

Paul's nomination for this award was supported by many firefighters and fire service survivors who have worked with him in this endeavor, including Arlene Zang. A portion of her nominating letter is reprinted below:

*"I could never imagine the effect that the death of a firefighter has on a family until my daughter, Captain Robin Broxterman, made the ultimate sacrifice when the floor collapsed at a house fire. Thanks to assistance from the National Fallen Firefighter Survivors' Programs, we were able to put our family back together. Unfortunately, there is no direct support and no assurance that these services will be available for other devastated families when tragedy strikes.*

*Paul Riedel witnessed the effect of these programs, understood their impact, and recognized the need for funding. Firefighting is Paul's first love, but his passion is helping others. He is wholly dedicated to providing the survivors the help and*

*support they need to rebuild their lives. For the past 5 years, Paul has been supervising the Greater Cincinnati Regional Golf outing. He organizes a small army of volunteers and all the proceeds go to support the survivors program. There is little debate about the success of the outing. It is one of the most successful in the nation. Paul travels to Maryland every year to share his knowledge with other coordinators and, as a result of his efforts, there are now golf outings supporting the NFFF's survivor programs in many other states.*



*Paul Riedel is both professional and compassionate. He is the firefighter that other firefighters strive to be. Paul has provided much needed emotional assistance to me and my family. He is our hero and I am honored to know him. I continue to have good days and tough ones, but I am always inspired by Paul's determination and commitment to our family and to the fire service, especially the survivor families."*

Congratulations, Paul, and thank you for your commitment to fire service survivors!

For more information about NFFF Golf Tournaments, go to <http://golf.firehero.org> or contact Tricia Sanborn Hurlbutt at (410)353-0216 or [golf@firehero.org](mailto:golf@firehero.org). ■



## 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEMORIAL WEEKEND

The 32nd annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend will be held at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, on October 4-6, 2013. This special weekend will honor firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2012 and in previous years.

We look forward to welcoming families and departments of firefighters being honored this year, as well as returning survivors whose firefighters were honored previously. We understand that the Memorial Weekend can be an emotional event. We'll take good care of you while you're here, and we hope that each person will leave with a sense of honor, comfort, and support.

We look forward to seeing you in Emmitsburg!

### Watch the Memorial from Home

For those of you unable to travel to Emmitsburg this October, you can watch a live streaming version or view the television broadcast of the Memorial Service on Sunday. A link to the live feed and information about the broadcast will be posted on the Foundation's website, [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org), before the Weekend. Join us in spirit from wherever you are that day.



# MEET THE BOARD: CHIEF DENNIS COMPTON



he Foundation is very fortunate to have a dedicated Board of Directors that is committed to our mission of honoring fallen firefighters, helping their families, and preventing firefighter injuries and fatalities. Over the next several issues, we will introduce these distinguished members of the fire service and corporate world in this column.

Chief Dennis Compton was elected chairman of the board in 2008. He is a well-known speaker and the author of several books, including his latest, titled *Progressive Leadership Principles, Concepts, and Tools*. His previous books include a three-part series titled *When in Doubt, Lead* and another titled *Mental Aspects of Performance for Firefighters and Fire Officers*. He was co-editor of the third edition of the ICMA textbook titled *Managing Fire and Rescue Services* and has written many articles for various publications.

Chief Compton was fire chief in Mesa, Arizona, for five years and assistant fire chief in Phoenix, Arizona, where he served for twenty-seven years. He has served as chairman of the executive board of the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), as chairman of the Congressional Fire Service Institute's National Advisory Committee.



Among the many national awards Chief Compton has received are the 1991 George D. Post National Fire Service Instructor of the Year, the American Fire Sprinkler Association Fire Service Person of the Year in 2000, the 2001 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by the University of Phoenix, and the 2003 Mason Lankford National Fire Service Leadership Award. He received the 2007 Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2009 Arizona Fire Chiefs Association Lifetime Achievement Award, and is a charter member of the Arizona Fire Service Hall of Flame.

Chief Compton states, *"In my 43 years in the fire service, being Chairman is one of the most exciting opportunities I've had. The reason is simple...it's my respect for the mission of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the people involved, especially our families, that connects me to the organization.*

*Honoring our fallen firefighters, assisting their families and departments when a fatality occurs, and working to prevent firefighter fatalities is a privilege. We must never lose sight of the sacrifices of our nation's fallen firefighters and their survivors, and I am honored to serve this organization."*

## PSOB ASSISTS FAMILIES



In May 2013, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Office were able to provide on-site claim support to the survivors of the firefighters who lost their lives in the West, Texas, explosion. PSOB, working closely with NFFFE, assisted with collecting the information needed to submit the claims for review, as they met with survivors and surviving agencies, providing assistance during a tragic time for their families and the West community.

In September, Foundation and PSOB staff will travel to Prescott, Arizona, to provide assistance to the families of the firefighters who died in the Yarnell Hill Fire. ■



**BJA**  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
U.S. Department of Justice

Enacted in 1976, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB)

Programs are a unique partnership effort of the PSOB Office, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice and local, state, and federal public safety agencies and national organizations, such as the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, to provide death, disability, and education benefits to those eligible for the Programs.

**Toll-free: 1-888-744-6513**

