

SAVE THE DATE!

December 12, 2013 6 p.m.

Survivor Tree Lighting

Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel

Emmitsburg, Maryland

December 31, 2013

Application Deadline

Scholarship Program for Spouses and

Life Partners of Fallen Firefighters

www.firehero.org/resources/families/scholarships/csu.html



April 1, 2014

Application Deadline

NFFF/Sarbanes Scholarship Program

www.firehero.org/resources/families/scholarships/sarbanes.html

May 4-7, 2014

Fire Service Survivors Conference

Clayton, Missouri

August 1-3, 2014

2014 Hal Bruno Camp for Kids (ages 7-17)

Camp Wyman, Eureka, Missouri

For information on upcoming events, please visit 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
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



2013 MEMORIAL WEEKEND

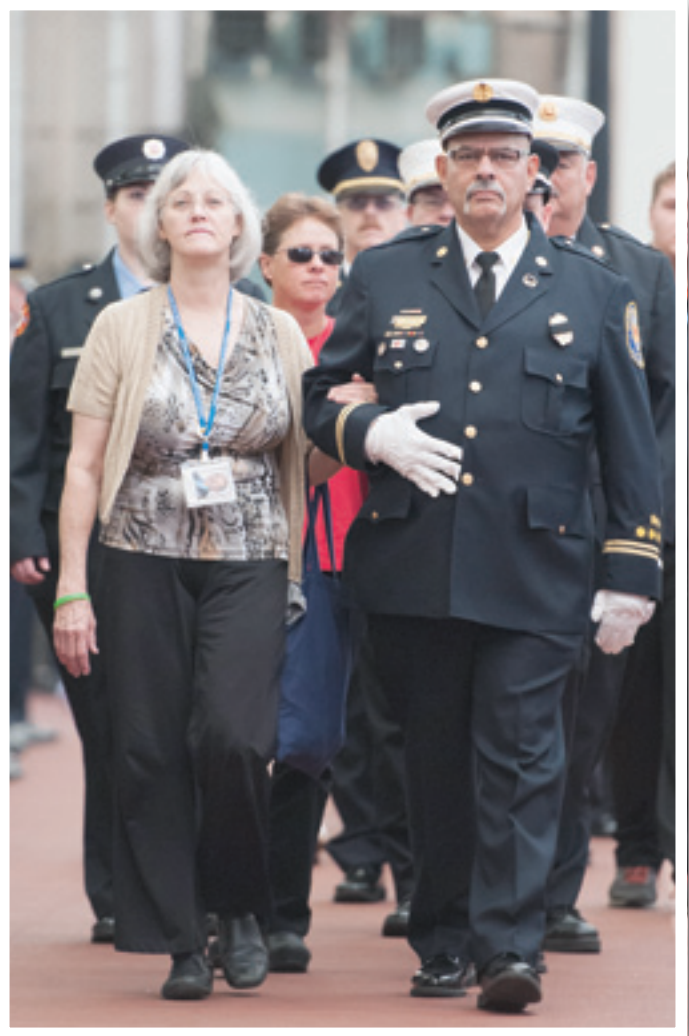
The Memorial Weekend is a huge endeavor requiring the efforts of many hardworking, dedicated people. Each year, hundreds of people travel from across the United States to assist the staff of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in hosting this meaningful event. The 2013 events were complicated by the shutdown of the federal government, which necessitated last minute changes to schedules, logistics, venues, and meals.

Our primary concern was that the Memorial Weekend was a fitting tribute to the 81 firefighters being honored and to their families and departments. We were humbled by the generosity, flexibility, and grace under pressure displayed by so many members of the fire service, returning survivors, volunteers, corporate sponsors, staff, and contractors who helped make this happen.

To the families and friends of the firefighters who were honored this year, we continue to hold you and your firefighters in our hearts.

To watch a video of the 2013 Candlelight and Memorial Services or to view photos from the Memorial Weekend, visit <http://weekend.firehero.org>.

Visit <http://co-store.com/firehero> to purchase Memorial Weekend and other National Fallen Firefighters Foundation merchandise. DVDs of the 2013 services will be available for purchase at this site soon. *See photos pgs 4-5.* ■



Thank you for making the Memorial Weekend so special despite all of the last minute challenges you faced.

There wasn't a moment that I felt like something was missing.

OUR BEST TO YOU DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON



The holidays can be beautiful or awful or bittersweet when someone you dearly love has died. Please remember to take especially good care of yourselves during this time of year.

Know your limits. Give yourself options. Be gentle with your heart.

It's OK to celebrate when you are grieving; you don't have to feel guilty about that. It's OK not to celebrate, too. If you skip this year, the holidays will come around again next year.

It's a great time of year to connect with other people, and to check in with people who you know might also be struggling.

You could choose to do something for others in honor of your firefighter, if that brings comfort.

If there are children in your family, but you just can't get into the festive mode, enlist the help of friends or family members to make sure the holidays still happen for the children. Ask them to shop or wrap gifts or take your children to holiday events.

You and your loved ones are always in our hearts. From all of us at the Foundation, we wish you a safe and peaceful holiday season and good things to come in the New Year. ■



FULFILLING EDUCATIONAL DREAMS: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FROM COLUMBIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY



It's not unusual for the surviving spouses or life partners of fallen firefighters to want to advance or change their career path as they begin rebuilding their lives. But often financial resources are limited and these educational goals may seem out of reach. Fortunately, a new scholarship opportunity may help make these dreams a reality.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has partnered with Columbia Southern University in Alabama to create the Scholarship Program for Spouses and Life Partners of Fallen Firefighters. CSU is a completely online university offering degree programs and a flexible learning style designed to accommodate a busy life.

The NFFF and CSU will award a two-year scholarship, which covers tuition and library fees, to an eligible spouse or life partner of a fallen firefighter who has been honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

Applications will be accepted through December 31, 2013, and the recipient will be notified in January. The

awardee must enroll within 90 days of receiving the scholarship and maintain enrollment. A grade point average of 3.0 for undergraduate or 3.5 for graduate level work must be upheld.

"We understand how challenging it can be for surviving spouses and partners to pursue their educational goals when they often have many other demands to juggle," said Chief Dennis Compton, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NFFF. "We are very pleased to be able to offer this scholarship with Columbia Southern University and provide this valuable assistance."

For more information about the scholarship and to download an application, go to <http://firehero.org/resources/families/scholarships/csu.html>

In addition to the scholarship, Columbia Southern University is offering a 10% partnership discount to family members of fallen firefighters honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. ■



Remembering

FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS



Joseph A. Hummel (1993-PA)

Sent by his wife, Gloria Hummel



Friends and family of Joseph Hummel

My husband, Joseph A. Hummel, Friedensburg Fire Company, was an honored firefighter in Emmitsburg in 1994. As suggested in the NFFF's September newsletter, I asked my church, St. John's Reformed of Friedensburg, Pennsylvania, to join in the coast-to-coast tribute, Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters. They did so during our worship service on October 6, 2013. They honored my husband, as well as all fallen firefighters, by ringing the chimes once, then playing America the Beautiful and asking all in attendance to read the Fireman's Prayer. Every year on the first Sunday of October, the altar flowers are placed from our local fire company. The added remembrance made it even more meaningful for me, and it is my prayer that they will continue to do a remembrance service each year.

With this letter, I have included a picture of our local Fallen Firefighters Memorial and also pictures of a tribute that was done at our fire company for Joseph in 2010. The memorial plaque was made by our oldest son, Randall Hummel. Along with the picture of Joseph, a picture of our nephew, Jeffery Brown, was added. He lost his life to health issues at a young age, but was very involved with the fire company. Our whole family—four boys and one girl—were at one time or another involved in the Friedensburg Fire Company.

My children, grandchildren, friends, Joseph's brothers, firefighters from Friedensburg Fire Company, and I attended the Emmitsburg services in 1994. It was a very emotional, uplifting experience for all. I was able to come back and attend one other service a few years ago.

Thank you to all those involved in Emmitsburg's services. You do make a lasting memory for the families of fallen firefighters. May God watch over you as you continue serving families of our fallen firefighters.

John E. Woodard (1995-NY)

Sent by his wife, Doris Woodard

On October 23, 2007, the newly constructed New York State Fire Training Complex, located on the campus of the Academy of Fire Science in Montour Falls, New York, was placed in service with a dedication ceremony. The fire training burn tower was dedicated in memory of John E. Woodard. Mr. Woodward first became a volunteer firefighter at age 18, serving over the years with the Friendship Fire Company, the Keysville Fire Department, and the Bolivar Fire Department. He also served as a fire protection specialist for the Office of Fire Prevention and Control for many years, and died in the line of duty while conducting a facilities inspection. At age 86, his wife, Doris Woodard, is still involved in local fire service organizations.

Albert "Foxy" DeFlumere (1996-NY)

Sent by his wife, Cathy DeFlumere



Travis, Cathy, and Ryan DeFlumere

On October 26, 1996, my husband, Al "Foxy" DeFlumere, died in the line of duty rescuing his family from a house fire. Our son Matthew also died. Seventeen years later, on a clear, crisp, fall morning, my sons Ryan and Travis and I were surrounded by family, friends, fire service and some VIPs from our NFFF survivor family to honor him at a street which was dedicated in his memory--"Al Foxy Way." It was a day we will treasure.

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“ Everyone was extremely helpful and friendly.

It was a beautiful weekend, and the way you treated me and my family was absolutely amazing.

Since the Weekend I have felt a sense of peace that I have not felt since I lost him.

I felt very special all weekend. The tribute to my husband was beyond my expectations.

The fire service escorts were so awesome and generous of their time.



The small group session really helped me to know that others were going through the same things I am going through.

The Candlelight Service was very touching. The songs were beautiful and touched our hearts.

The Memorial Service was a great tribute and honor to all the fallen firefighters.

The Weekend was a very special time for our family. ”



Remembering

FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

continued from page 3



Brian D. Myers Sr. (1997-NY)

Sent by his wife, Ronalee Myers



Plaque in remembrance of Brian Myers Sr.

On the fifteenth anniversary of Brian being honored in Emmitsburg, we are pleased to forward a donation of \$2500 to the Foundation in his memory. In 2003, in Brian's honor, the Schuyler Hose Company donated a 1967 Maxim City Service firefighting apparatus to MacBoston 18 Truck. MacBoston 18 does not fight fires, but provides rolling memorials to special events in honor of New York State fallen firefighters.

After years of service, the Maxim developed operating problems and needed to be retired from service and sent to salvage. MacBoston asked Brian's family to designate a charity to which to send the proceeds from salvaging the truck. We chose the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in Emmitsburg, Maryland, a place where Brian's memory is already enshrined at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. MacBoston also presented the family with a plaque, which is now displayed at the Schuyler Hose Company for future generations to see.

Although the Maxim apparatus is now history, the memory of Brian D. Myers Sr. lives on through the work of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Fallen Firefighters of Saratoga, New York



L-R: Lt. Adam Myers, Philip Myers, Ronalee Myers, Fire Chief Brian Myers Jr.

The town of Saratoga in upstate New York has done more than just talk about its appreciation for first responder volunteers. The town has established the Town of Saratoga Volunteer Recognition Park in their honor, located on the grounds of the town office building in Schuylerville. The park honors volunteers who have served with David Nevins Fire Company, Quaker Springs Fire Department, Schuyler Hose Company, and the General Schuyler Emergency Squad. The park was dedicated in September 2012.

A special tribute is paid to the memory of Firefighter Brian D. Myers Sr., who died in the line of duty serving with Schuyler Hose Company on January 1, 1997. The family tradition of service continues with two of his three sons, Fire Chief Brian D. Myers Jr. and Lieutenant Adam Myers.

Frederick A. Burroughs (2007-WV)

Sent by his wife, Hazel Redden-Burroughs

My husband, a 33-year firefighter with the Ghent (WV) Volunteer Fire Department, was killed in a propane explosion on January 30, 2007. In October 2013, a bridge on the East Beckley Bypass was dedicated in his memory as the Fire Captain Fred Burroughs Memorial Bridge. Family and friends attended the dedication ceremony, along with local emergency responders. Among those in attendance were his children, Lindsay and Christopher. Lindsay has followed in her father's footsteps and is now a Ghent volunteer firefighter.

Fred would be so humbled, and we are so proud. ■



FIRE SERVICE CORNER

By Victor Stagnaro, *Director of Fire Service Programs*



LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVE #8

Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.

“Two hundred years of tradition unhampered by progress.”



remember the first time I heard the saying, I was a young recruit firefighter trying to soak in as much knowledge and experience as humanly possible.

I remember thinking how funny the saying is and, like many of my senior colleagues, believing it as the gospel. Over 30 years later I have come to know that the saying makes for a good headline and still gets firefighters nodding their heads in agreement. But it simply is not true. If it were, we would still be pushing steam engines up and down the street to put out a fire.

Over the past 20 plus years we have seen tremendous advances that are resulting in greater levels of firefighter safety. The ensemble of firefighting gear provides the best protection in the history of the fire service. Thermal imaging cameras—once so expensive a metro department would only hand them out to chief officers—are now standard equipment on almost every piece of fire apparatus. Personal alerting devices are now integrated into the self contained breathing apparatus, and if a firefighter is on air, the device is automatically on.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has been involved with helping to promote technological

advances. In addition to hosting two research agenda symposia, the Foundation funded a study to determine the dimension needed for the seats of a fire truck in order to accommodate a full-size, fully equipped firefighter. As a result, fire truck manufacturers have redesigned the cabs and seats of their fire trucks to ensure that a fully-equipped firefighter can be safely seated wearing a seatbelt.

This year we are working to integrate a technological change within a fire department and determine some best practices, as well as obstacles that should be considered when adapting to technology. Several departments that have historically managed emergency incidents utilizing a pen and paper organizational or command chart will experiment with using a tablet computer. The electronic command chart records all the activities as they occur, alerts the incident commander if they have not heard from a responding crew within a reasonable amount of time, and e-mails them a report after the incident so it can be used for an After Action Review.

We hope that the electronic command chart will enhance firefighter safety and operational awareness. We are grateful to the Assistance to Firefighter Grants, which allow us to promote firefighter safety. ■



FALLEN WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS LEGISLATION



regon’s Senator Jeff Merkley introduced the Fallen Wildland Firefighters Fair Compensation Act that would allow aerial and ground contracted firefighters to be covered for death and disability benefits under the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Act (PSOB). Currently, these benefits are granted to state and local police, firefighters, EMTs, and federally employed wildland firefighters. They

are not granted to contracted wildland firefighters, even though 40% of firefighters who battle blazes on federal land are contracted. The NFFF is supportive of efforts to provide benefits for families of fallen firefighters.

Marci VanderGriend of our wildland community is tracking this legislation and will be providing updates on the Foundation’s Facebook page. If you would like to contact Marci, her e-mail is: smazvg@hotmail.com. ■



DISTINGUISHED EAGLE SCOUT AWARD PRESENTED TO CHIEF RONALD J. SIARNICKI



In recognition of his outstanding leadership, commitment to the fire service and dedication to improving firefighter safety, Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, executive director of the National Fallen Firefighters

Foundation, recently received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (DESA). This award is granted to Eagle Scouts who, after at least 25 years, have distinguished themselves in their life work and who have shared their talents with their communities on a voluntary basis.

“This award is a testament to the respect Chief Siarnicki has garnered throughout his entire fire service career. He is highly skilled at building consensus, defining objectives and achieving goals,” said Chief Dennis Compton, Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Board of Directors. “The survivors of the fallen and our nation’s firefighters could not have a better champion when it comes to getting the support and resources they need.”



L-R: Garry Briese, Rick Mason, and Chief Siarnicki

The Foundation staff nominated Siarnicki for the award, and it was presented at the recent NFFF Board of Directors Meeting. Garry Briese, a member of the Board’s Advisory Committee and a DESA recipient, said Chief Siarnicki was completely surprised and honored by the award. “He credited his parents for instilling in him the importance of volunteerism and giving back to the community,” Briese noted.

The DESA was established in 1969 and is administered and presented by the National Eagle Scout Association. It is the association’s highest honor and has gained prominent standing among Scouting’s recognitions.

Of the more than 2.2 million Eagle Scouts, approximately 2,000 have been awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. Previous recipients include President Gerald R. Ford, former Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, former White House Chief of Staff Samuel Skinner, astronaut Neil Armstrong, as well as several governors and senators, military flag officers, university presidents, and CEOs of Fortune 500 companies. ■

MEET THE BOARD: BILL WEBB, VICE CHAIRMAN



Bill has served as executive director of the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) since 1995. Established in 1989, CFSI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan policy institute designed to enhance congressional awareness about the concerns and needs of the fire and emergency services. In his capacity as executive director, Bill works closely with members of Congress and fire service leaders on developing federal legislation and creating new federal programs designed to improve the readiness of our nation’s fire and emergency services.

Bill was named a board member of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in 2005 and vice chairman in 2009.

Previously, Bill was the program manager for the Firefighter Combat Challenge. He also served in the first Bush Administration (1989-1992) as a special assistant to cabinet secretaries at the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor, organizing events and developing briefing materials for the secretaries.

Bill is an honorary member of the Vienna (VA) Volunteer Fire Department, the International Association of Fire Firefighters’ Local 36, and the Delaware Volunteer

Firefighters’ Association. In 2009, he was named the recipient of the Edward H. McCormack, Jr. Spirit of Excellence Award by the FEMSA/FAMA Government Affairs Committee and the recipient of the Chairman’s Award by the Volunteer and Combination Officers Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Bill received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Oregon State University.

Without question, serving on the Foundation’s Board of Directors has been the most rewarding experience in my professional life. As board members, we are all passionately committed to the mission of the Foundation, working together to provide guidance and support to the staff so that they can offer the necessary services to family members of our fallen heroes. ■



SERVICEMASTER RECOGNIZES FIRST RESPONDERS



uring opening ceremonies at the ServiceMaster 200 at Phoenix International Raceway. ServiceMaster honored first responders with a \$10,000 donation to both the

brands are Terminix, TruGreen, American Home Shield, ServiceMaster Clean, ServiceMaster Restore, Merry Maids, Furniture Medic and AmeriSpec. With more than 60 years of providing disaster relief to homes and businesses,

Prescott Firefighters' Charity and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. These donations will directly benefit the families of the 19 firefighters who were tragically killed in the line of duty on June 30 in Yarnell, Arizona. Family members and firefighters attended the ServiceMaster 200 as guests of ServiceMaster.

With a global network of more than 7,300 company-owned, franchise and licensed locations, Memphis-based ServiceMaster is one of the world's largest residential and commercial service networks. The company's high-profile



L-R: Chief Darrell Willis, Prescott Fire Department, Wildland Division; Carol Conner, fire service survivor; Tom Coby, President of ServiceMaster; and Bryan Sperber, President of Phoenix International Raceway

ServiceMaster often works closely with first responders and wants to recognize the sacrifice and loss of these public servants.

Fire service survivor Carol Conner, mother of Phillip "Pip" Conner (2000-NV), accepted the check on behalf of the NFFF. Survivors met NASCAR drivers, and Tom Coby, president of ServiceMaster. After the race, they shared the stage with the winning driver and his team.

Many thanks to ServiceMaster for their support, and to Carol, for representing us so well. ■

2014 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

On Saturday, March 15, 2014, the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation Memorial Pipes and Drums band will represent the NFFF by marching in the Delray Beach (Florida) St. Patrick's Day Parade. This is a large fire-service-themed parade that has been attended by the Dublin Fire Brigade and many others.

The NFFF Memorial Pipes and Drums had a great time a few years ago in Savannah, Georgia, where we were honored to have survivor families march with us. We are looking forward to doing it again in Florida.

We welcome any survivor families in the area (or anywhere) that might like to participate in a warm and balmy, versus a cold and snowy, St. Patrick's Day Parade. Family survivors who wish to attend should go to <http://stpatrickparade.com> to access more information about this event.

Honor Guard units are also invited to participate and should contact John Fischer at jfischer2009@comcast.net or (561) 883-7763 for additional information on hotels and logistics. ■

WILBERT'S "COMMEMORATING FIRST RESPONDERS" PROGRAM

The Commemorating First Responders program provided by Wilbert Funeral Services through the NFFF has been serving families of fallen first responders since early 2012. This program provides, at no cost, a Wilbert Stainless Steel Triune® burial vault with a personalized cover depicting symbols or personal photographs in a meaningful tribute to the fallen hero. Families choosing cremation are offered a choice from four urns as well as a Stainless Steel Triune urn vault if burial of the cremated remains is chosen. The local Wilbert Licensee works with the funeral professionals to provide these items as well as a graveside service (where permitted by the cemetery) that includes the final sealing and lowering of the vault.

Wilbert and its network of 200 licensees throughout North America are honored to help commemorate first responders through this program with the NFFF. Wilbert also extends this program to all first responders who die in the line of duty throughout the United States and Canada, serving 111 fallen first responders in 2012 alone.

Wilbert also thanks the many Funeral Professionals who provide the services and support to the families. Without them, the Commemorating First Responders program could not happen.

To learn more about the program, visit www.wilbert.com/commemorating-first-responders/about-the-program. ■

