

## SAVE THE DATE!

**June 7-9, 2013**

*Hal Bruno Camp for Children of Fallen Firefighters (ages 7-17)*  
Westview on the James, Goochland, VA  
[www.comfortzonecamps.org](http://www.comfortzonecamps.org)

**June 29, 2013**

*Quaker State 400*  
Kentucky Speedway, Sparta, KY  
<http://fireheroracing.com/sparta.html>

**August 8-11, 2013**

*Hal Bruno Camp for Children of Fallen Firefighters (ages 4-6 with parent)*  
Orlando, Florida  
Contact: [lhurley@firehero.org](mailto:lhurley@firehero.org)



**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)

**May 4-8, 2014**

*Survivors Conference*  
Clayton, Missouri

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).

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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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## NFFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHIEF RONALD SIARNICKI RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AWARD



For his outstanding leadership and commitment to improving life safety standards for our nation's firefighters, the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) Board of Directors selected

Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, executive director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), to receive the 2013 CFSI/Motorola Solutions Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award.

"Chief Siarnicki has a long and rich history of bringing diverse groups together for the betterment of the fire service at the national and local levels. This award truly recognizes Ron's leadership and commitment to those important efforts and accomplishments, as well as his contagious passion for ensuring that all firefighters have the tools and resources necessary so they can do their jobs effectively and safely, then go home to their loved ones at the end of each shift," said Chief Dennis Compton, Chairman of the NFFF Board of Directors.

The Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award was established in 1998 by CFSI and Motorola Solutions to recognize an individual who has been proactive at the local, state, or federal government level to improve fire/emergency services and firefighter life safety issues.

Chief Siarnicki joins some of the nation's most notable fire service leaders who have set the national standard of a

fire service that emphasizes preparation and readiness of all responders, including: Marcine Goodloe, Ronny Coleman, Kevin O'Connor, Steve Edwards, and Hal Bruno.

Chief Siarnicki began his career as a volunteer firefighter in Monessen, Pennsylvania. He joined the Prince George's

County Fire/EMS Department in 1978 and, over 24 years, progressed through the ranks to Chief of the Department. In 2001 he retired from PGFD and was appointed Executive Director of the NFFF.

Under his leadership, the NFFF has expanded services to assist the survivors of firefighters who died in the line of duty and developed programs to address firefighter safety and reduce the number of line-of-duty deaths. One of his most important contributions to the fire service is the 2004 Firefighter Life Safety Summit which resulted in the creation of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives.

In addition, Siarnicki has been recognized for

his outstanding leadership by numerous organizations, including: The Everett E. Hudiburg Award, The Fire Engineering Lifetime Achievement Award, Alan Brunacini Fire Services Executive Safety Award from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Metropolitan Fire Chiefs' Presidents Award of Distinction, University of Maryland, University College Distinguished Alumnus, American Burn Association's Moncrief Award and the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Silver Medal of Valor. ■



Chief Ronald Siarnicki receives Mason Lankford award.



It was with deep sadness that the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation learned that Art Glatfelter, a former Foundation board member, died on Thursday, February 14, 2013, at the age of 88.

Mr. Glatfelter was renowned for his generous contributions of his time and resources. A World War II Marine Corps veteran in the Pacific Theater from July 1942 to July 1946, he served on numerous boards and organizations within his community and the fire service for more than 50 years.

In 1951, Mr. Glatfelter founded the Glatfelter Insurance Group in his hometown of Dallastown, Pennsylvania, which grew to be one of the largest privately owned agencies in the United States. He founded VFIS in 1969 to fill a need for insurance coverage for the nation's volunteer fire and emergency services. Today, VFIS is the world's leading provider of insurance coverage as well as education and training programs for the emergency services community.

Mr. Glatfelter was instrumental in establishing and building the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in 1981, and he served on the Board of Directors of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation from 1995-2005. He generously donated time and support to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend and sponsored the broadcast of the Weekend for many years.



Art Glatfelter

## *Farewell, Friends*



With the recent death of Chief Tom Carr, The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has lost one of its great allies in its mission to improve the health and safety of firefighters.

Chief Carr joined the Charleston (SC) Fire Department in November of 2008 after retiring as chief of the Montgomery County (MD) Fire & Rescue Service. Chief Carr was widely recognized as a distinguished and effective leader who helped the Charleston Fire Department recover after nine firefighters died while fighting a furniture store fire in June of 2007.



Chief Tom Carr

“Tom Carr’s leadership in Charleston after that tragic fire is truly one of the most remarkable stories of leadership in the modern fire service. He was able to guide the department through 20 years of change in less than five years,” said Chief Ron Siarnicki, executive director of the NFFF. “Tom would tell you the Charleston firefighters did that. The firefighters have told us many times, Chief Carr showed us the way.”

Carr joined the Montgomery County (MD) Fire & Rescue Service in 1973 as a volunteer. Five years later he became a career firefighter and paramedic, rising through the department to become chief in 2003. He was highly regarded for his progressive and innovative approaches to fire and rescue techniques, particularly in auto extrications and collapse rescues. Carr was praised throughout the fire service for his efforts to ensure the members of his departments operated at a professional and consistently safe manner.

In the words of Dennis Compton, chairman of the Board of Directors of the NFFF, “Tommy was a consummate professional and a great person. Chief Carr was also a true friend and dedicated supporter of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, as well as other state and national fire service organizations and initiatives. His leadership, character and common sense added quality to everything he touched.” ■





# FDIC EVENTS



The Fire Department Instructors Conference, held April 21-27 in Indianapolis, found thousands of firefighters attending for training and many learning opportunities. Fire service survivors staffed three different booth locations at the conference and represented the NFFF with professionalism and lots of hard work. This was a great opportunity to showcase what the Foundation does and who benefits from our programs.

Stop Drop Rock-n-Roll, held on Thursday, April 25, was a huge success. Many firefighters came to listen to great music provided by country music star Daryl Worley and to watch and bid on auction items in a fast, furious, and fun event!

The FDIC 9/11 Memorial Stair climb on Friday, April 26 in the Lucas Oil Stadium saw over 400 firefighters climb the stadium to honor and remember the firefighters who died on 9/11, and all firefighters who have given their lives in the service of others.

Many thanks to the survivors and fire service volunteers who helped make these events so successful! ■



At Stop Drop Rock-n-Roll, survivors are the stars! After Daryl Worley signed his guitar to be auctioned off that night, the winner wanted survivors to also sign the guitar. Here, Arlene Zang signs in honor of her daughter, Robin Zang-Broxterman.




Survivors  
Myra and Ashley Zeeks



Stairclimb at  
Lucas Oil Stadium



### IT MAY NOT BE THE PGA BUT IT'S A GOOD TIME FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

 Ten years ago this June, the first National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Golf Tournament was held in Fairfield, Pennsylvania, to raise awareness and support the Foundation's survivor programs. Since that time, this program has grown to include over 30 regional golf tournaments across the country, and raised nearly \$2,000,000 to support programs and services for surviving family members, including scholarships, workshops and conferences. "It's not a serious day of golf. It's certainly not the PGA approach to golf," says Chief Charlie Dickinson, retired Deputy Administrator of the United States Fire Administration and the National Coordinator for the tournaments. "But we've found we've been able to financially help the Foundation."

While the NFFF provides some support at the national level, each event is coordinated by a local volunteer. These coordinators get together once a year in Emmitsburg to learn ways to make their event fun and profitable, and to strengthen the connection between their event and the work of the Foundation. At this year's meeting, fire service survivors Cathy Hedrick, Pat Stonaker, and Natalie Stephens encouraged attendees to reach out to those in their community who had lost a beloved

firefighter. Ms. Stephens discussed attending an NFFF Golf Tournament for the first time in Philadelphia just two months after the PFD lost two firefighters in the line of duty. She said that as keynote speaker, she was there not only to tell her story, but to encourage those in attendance to reach out and provide support to the family and co-worker survivors of that recent tragedy.

Chief Dickinson encourages and welcomes involvement of fire service survivors. "Family and loved ones of fallen firefighters have attended scores of these tournaments, volunteering or participating in the events, but most importantly speaking about the loss of their loved one and how the Foundation has helped them in their most difficult journey," says Chief Dickinson. "We, the NFFF Golf group, are so appreciative of this, knowing firsthand the sacrifice they have experienced and carry with them, yet attend and help with our golf tournaments! Thank you from all of us in the Golf group, as we look forward to your continued help and support again this year!"

For more information about the NFFF Golf Tournament program, please contact Tricia Hurlbutt at [golf@firehero.org](mailto:golf@firehero.org) or (410) 353-0216. To watch a video about the NFFF Memorial Golf Tournaments, visit the Foundation's youtube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/NFFFTV](http://www.youtube.com/user/NFFFTV). ■





# 2013 NFFF GOLF TOURNAMENTS

## May

**Fremont, CA** - May 20, 2013

**Philadelphia, PA** - May 31, 2013

## June

**Bloomfield, CT** - June 1, 2013

**Rochester, NY** - June 2 & 3, 2013

**Greater Cincinnati, OH** - June 7, 2013

**Tucson, AZ** - June 7 - 8, 2013

**Raleigh, NC** - June 10, 2013

**Wautoma, WI** - June 14, 2013

**Fairfield, PA** - June 14, 2013

**Hilton Head, SC** - June 15, 2013

**Murray, UT** - June 21, 2013

**Arundel, ME** - June 28, 2013

## July

**Glendale Heights, IL** - July 19, 2013

**Erie, PA** - July 19, 2013

## August

**Fort Wayne, IN** - August 2, 2013

**Moulton, AL** - August 10, 2013

**Geneva, IL** - August 12, 2013

**Marshfield, MA** - August 12, 2013

**Central Ohio, MA** - August 12, 2013

## September

**Rockford, IL** - September 6, 2013

**North Texas** - September 6, 2013

**Austin, TX** - September 7, 2013

**Dinuba, CA** - September 13, 2013

**Prescott Valley, AZ** - September 14, 2013

**Southeast Wisconsin** - September 16, 2013

## October

**Charleston, SC** - October 18, 2013

**New Orleans, LA** - October 22, 2013

## November

**Naples, FL** - November 9, 2013



## TRAGEDY IN WEST, TEXAS



Since the tragic fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas, teams from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the Texas LODD Task Force, have been on the ground in Texas offering assistance

and support to the departments of the fallen firefighters, through the Local Assistance State Team.

In addition to the death of firefighters and civilians, this small community has suffered destruction of property, damage to local businesses and school buildings, loss of jobs, and displacement of people from their homes.

Because of the large loss of life, the Foundation expects to maintain a presence in Texas for a lengthy period of time, providing peer counseling and support. To help those efforts, the NFFF has established a national fund to accept monetary donations to assist the survivors and coworkers of the fire and EMS personnel who died in the line of duty. All donated funds will be used to assist the survivors and

coworkers to rebuild their lives and support the programs and services they will need.

*Checks can be mailed to:*

NFFF c/o West, Texas Fire and EMS Fallen Hero Fund  
P.O. Drawer 498

Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Donations also can be made by credit card at

[www.regonline.com/westtx](http://www.regonline.com/westtx).

For more information about the Texas LODD Task Force: [www.texasloddtaskforce.com](http://www.texasloddtaskforce.com).

### DVD of Memorial Service

The NFFF will have a DVD of the West, Texas, Memorial Service held on April 25, 2013, available for purchase in several weeks. Proceeds will be dedicated to helping the families of the fallen firefighters in West and the surrounding communities who died in the explosion. When the DVD is available, information on how to order will be posted on our website: [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org).



# 2013 SURVIVORS CONFERENCE



The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Fire Service Survivors Conference was held April 14-17 in Phoenix, Arizona. The conference continues to grow annually, with about 150 survivors attending this year. We were thrilled to have over 50 survivors

attending a Survivors Conference for the first time.

This year's workshops included "Grief and Depression," "Self-Defense for Women," "Public Speaking," "CPR," "Communication in Bereaved Families," and "Tai Chi: Tranquility in Motion." Survivors facilitated workshops on travel, creative outlets, fundraising, and writing.

Conference attendees enjoyed evening activities, including a tour of the Hall of Flame fire museum and a banquet and dance. They spent time getting to know one another over meals and sitting poolside under the palm trees.

Thanks to all who came to Phoenix. We hope you went home with wonderful memories and the assurance that you are never truly alone. ■





*Once again it was an awesome, wonderful, uplifting, rewarding week in Phoenix, filled with laughter, tears, and lots of new friendships formed. I am so blessed to have the NFFF and all these people to call my Survivor Family!!*

-Melissa Woitalewicz

Wife of Kenny Woitalewicz (2004-NE)

*From arrival to departure, the NFFF radiates love and caring. I now know why survivors keep coming back. There was so much to do that the week raced by, but there was always time for a hug!*

-Katy Smith

Mother of Robert Henderson (2005-WY), 1<sup>st</sup> time attendee

*My husband died in the line of duty in 1994, but I had never attended a Survivors Conference until this year. It is difficult to put into words the impact of that conference—NFFF staff ready to assist you in any way possible, new friends from all over the country, local firemen who are there to help all week, informative and interesting sessions, lots of laughing and crying, but the best one word description is FAMILY.*

-Marilyn Harris

Wife of Chief Clifford Harris (1994-TX), 1<sup>st</sup> time attendee



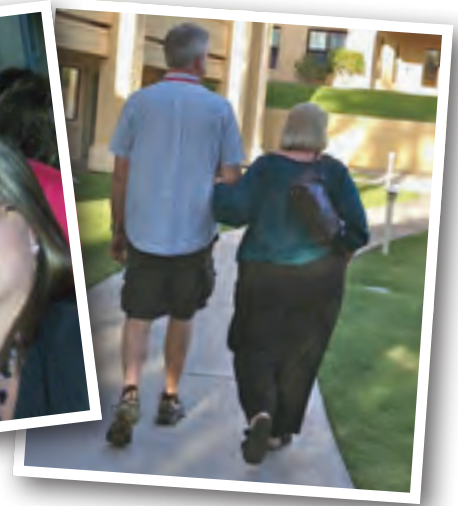
*I grew so much during my first Survivor Conference! The first day I had a mini-meltdown when sharing some feelings I've kept inside since the Memorial Weekend almost seven years ago. The next few days brought caring support, a few more tears, but many more laughs. On the last day, I found myself sharing the same feelings at a workshop on public speaking. I surprised myself by sharing my story with emotion, but without tears. This experience showed me I still had healing to do, and this was a great place to do it.*

-Riki Haukaas

Sister of Robert Henderson (2005-WY), 1st time attendee







## SUPPORT FOR THE LONG HAUL



Pierce Manufacturing Inc., an Oshkosh Corporation [NYSE: OSK] company, launched Support for the Long Haul, a new nationwide campaign to benefit the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

The program will help the NFFF assist the families of firefighters who die in the line of duty.

“Since forming a partnership with the NFFF, we’ve raised more than \$275,000 to support the families and loved ones of firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice,” said Jim Johnson, Oshkosh Corporation executive vice president and president Fire & Emergency. “An important facet of Pierce’s mission is to give back to the fire service and the NFFF, and programs like Support for the Long Haul help lead the way.”

Through October 1, 2013, participants can visit [www.supportforthelonghaul.com](http://www.supportforthelonghaul.com) to make a donation to the NFFF. When they do, they will automatically be entered in the Support for the Long Haul sweepstakes\* for the chance to win a firefighter inspired, customized Ford F-150 4 x 4 SuperCrew pickup truck. The sweepstakes winner will be announced in November 2013.

“We are grateful to our sponsors for helping us raise awareness and funding so that we can fulfill our mission,” said Ron Siarnicki, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation



Pierce’s Ford F150 4 x 4 SuperCrew pickup

executive director. “With the help of partners like Pierce Manufacturing, their dealer network, the people of Oshkosh

Corporation and support

from Pritchard Auto Company, we are able to continue to expand our programming for the families of fallen firefighters.” ■

\*No purchase necessary to enter the sweepstakes. Complete rules for entering and for eligibility are available at [www.supportforthelonghaul.com](http://www.supportforthelonghaul.com). Employees of Pierce Manufacturing, Oshkosh Corporation, their advertising agencies, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, and their families are not eligible for the sweepstakes. Sweepstakes void where restricted or prohibited by law.



# NASCAR NEWS



Survivor Marci VanderGriend on the track in Fontana

**O**n March 24th, survivors attended the Auto Club 400 in Fontana, California, for the 1st Responder Appreciation Hospitality Event. Sunny spring weather set the backdrop for the event, where survivors volunteered at the NFFF booth giving away Honor Bears, koozies, the always welcome hand sanitizers, and information on NFFF programs.

Next up is the Quaker State 400 NASCAR Race at the Kentucky Speedway on June 29th. This is a night race and is a different experience under the lights! Survivors will be transported from a hotel in Louisville, Kentucky, to the track for a full day of eating, socializing, along with networking. This year the special driver appearance is #16

Driver Greg Biffle. The #16 car will be proudly carrying the NFFF Logo on its rear panel.

Also, mark your calendars for the Dover Monster Mile on September 29th at the Dover International Speedway and the MATV 500 IndyCar World Championships on October 18-19, also at the Auto Club speedway in Fontana, California. ■

## NFFF STORE NEWS

**A**fter reviewing the Foundation's gift shop/store performance over the years, and the amount of investment needed both in cash and staff time to run the gift shop, Foundation management has decided to hire an outside company to provide marketing, fulfillment, and eCommerce services for the Foundation's gift shop. The Foundation has established a relationship with MJ Corp located in Mt. Laurel, NJ, to run the Foundation's gift shop. On May 6, 2013, the inventory was transferred to MJ Corp, and the new store website went live. You can still reach the store by going to [www.FireHero.org](http://www.FireHero.org) and pressing the store tab on the left side of the screen.

MJ Corp is a promotional products and business gift company specializing in image awareness and eCommerce that started business in 1959. They have a 28,000 square foot facility located in Mt Laurel, New Jersey. Their current clients include the White House, U.S. House of Representatives retail gift store, the Wounded Warriors Project, Adams Golf, and Arby's. They do their own screen printing, embroidery, and trophies and plaques.

The Foundation still plans to have an actual store at the hotel and on campus during the Memorial Weekend. MJ Corp will provide help managing the store during the Memorial Weekend, but the Foundation will provide staff and volunteers, so you will still see some familiar faces working the cash registers and helping you find what you need. All other sales during the year will be done online. There will be a kiosk on campus for students and others to place orders at the Emmitsburg office. ■

