



# NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

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For Immediate Release

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## **Delaware Fallen Firefighters to be Honored at National Memorial Service October 8**

EMMITSBURG, MD – The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service will honor four firefighters who died in the line of duty from Delaware. They are among the 75 firefighters who died in 2016 and 20 firefighters who died in previous years who will be remembered at the official national service at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland on Sunday, October 8, 2017.

Senior Firefighter Jerry W. Fickes, Jr., age 51, and Lieutenant Christopher M. Leach, age 41, of the Wilmington Fire Department, died on September 24, 2016, from injuries sustained while fighting a structure fire.

Lieutenant Ardythe Denise “Ardy” Hope, age 48, of the Wilmington Fire Department, died on December 1, 2016, from injuries sustained while fighting a structure fire on September 24, 2016.

Firefighter Timothy J. McClanahan, age 46, of the Lewes Fire Department, died on July 11, 2016, from injuries sustained during a joint training exercise with the Delaware Air Rescue Team.

Their names will be added to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial on the Academy grounds. The national tribute is sponsored by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and the Department of Homeland Security’s U.S. Fire Administration.

Thousands are expected to attend the service, including families and friends of the fallen firefighters, members of Congress, Administration officials and other dignitaries. Families will receive flags flown over the U. S. Capitol and the National Memorial. Members of the fire service, honor guard units and pipe and drum units from across the country will participate in this national tribute.

For a complete list of fallen firefighters being honored and a widget to display their information on your website, along with Memorial Weekend related videos, photos, media and broadcast information go to [weekend.firehero.org](http://weekend.firehero.org).