



NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

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For Immediate Release

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Illinois Fallen Firefighters to be Honored at National Memorial Service October 8

EMMITSBURG, MD – The 36th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service will honor two firefighters who died in the line of duty from Illinois. 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.

Firefighter/Paramedic Kenneth K. Harris, age 56, of the Village of Oak Park Fire Department, died on January 11, 2016, after he suffered a heart attack and died within 24-hours of completing his duty shift.

Captain Eric T. Kohlbauer, age 52, of the Freeport Rural Fire Department, died on July 12, 2016, after he collapsed while participating with other members of his department in a pumper relay drill.

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.