

FACING TOMORROW TOGETHER

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
A Newsletter for Fire Service Survivors



The NFFF Supports Survivors of All Ages

The NFFF had a busy summer full of events for survivors, from the very youngest to the most mature. We were very pleased to be able to add an event this year specifically

for 18–25-year-olds, which is something we have dreamed of for a long time. Many, many thanks to the volunteers, sponsors, and participants who made these events happen and helped create lifetime memories for survivors of all ages.

Hal Bruno Kids Camp: CoCo Key Camp Orlando, Florida—Ages 4-6



Ten children attended this camp with their mothers. The kids attended sessions with a children's grief therapist and firefighter volunteers, while the mothers met together with NFFF staff to share stories and concerns. There was also plenty of time for everyone to enjoy the water park right in the hotel, and the moms had some time to relax while the kids were in sessions. Many thanks to the dedicated, energetic firefighter volunteers who helped with transportation and staffing to make this event a success!

Comments from Parents

“The whole program is fantastic. I like how much focus is put into the children. My son had a blast, and he relates to the Hal Bruno camp as ‘daddy’s friends.’ His heart feels better after knowing that other children have a daddy in heaven as well. Because of camp, my son talks freely about daddy without so much sadness.”

“I wanted my child to be able to meet other children with similar life experiences. We were excited for camp but slightly nervous. The camp was helpful for me as the parent and fun for my child. I enjoyed talking with other parents that had the same challenges of raising children with a fallen firefighter parent. I recommend going to the camp at least once because the camp is very helpful and a positive influence in our lives.”

Hal Bruno Kids Camp: Comfort Zone Camp Bantam, Connecticut—Ages 7-17



This year, 35 children attended the NFFF/Comfort Zone Camp (CZC) program. CZC offers a program that combines a therapeutic component in combination with a dynamic camp setting, allowing campers to process their grief in a fun and safe environment. Structured camp activities provide an opportunity for children from across the country to meet with others in their age group with similar experiences and to learn skills to cope with their

continued on page 2

Hal Bruno Kids Camp *continued from page 1*

loss. Each camper is matched with an adult volunteer “Big Buddy” who is assigned to that camper for the duration of the weekend. While the children were at camp, parents and guardians attended an orientation session at the hotel where they were staying. For the balance of the weekend, they were free to sightsee, shop, or just relax until the closing ceremony at camp on Sunday afternoon.

Comments from Campers

“Thank you for so, so much for giving me the opportunity to attend this camp. It’s really helped me to find others with similar experiences. It’s also fun.”

“I have met some of my closest friends here, and it’s so nice that I can actually talk to people who have been through the same thing.”

Comments from Parents

“I was relieved to have met people that I can relate to. I was very happy both my children had fun, too, and they both want to go back next year. I am relieved there were kids her age and she made friends and connections with them.”

“I LOVED that all of the kids had experienced the same loss of a parent through their service to their community as a firefighter. Meeting other children of firefighters really made my daughter feel as if someone finally understood her new reality.”

Outward Bound

Denver, Colorado—Ages 18-25



This year the NFFF partnered with Colorado Outward Bound School to offer a pilot program for young adults who have lost a parent. This seven-day hiking and backpacking course gave these young survivors the opportunity to challenge themselves with new experiences within the context of a group where everyone has experienced a significant loss. Offering this program is a dream come true for us, and we hope to have the funding and interest to continue offering this unique program in the future.

Comments from Participants

“I would like to personally thank you for the opportunity to attend Outward Bound. My brother and I both had life changing experiences, and I will never forget the people and lessons I learned on that adventure.”

“I learned that I am stronger and more capable than I previously thought. Mind over matter is real, and I can do anything I set my mind to.”

2015 Survivors Conference

Annapolis, Maryland—Ages 18-100



The 2015 Survivors Conference was held in Maryland’s historic and scenic capital city, home to the United States Naval Academy and the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial. Workshops were offered on a variety of topics including writing, hula dancing, establishing memorial scholarships, and dealing with difficult family situations during grief. Evening activities allowed participants to sample the local flavor as they watched the Orioles play, learned to pick blue crabs, and took a dinner cruise on a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. Perhaps most importantly, survivors were able to spend time with one another, establishing and strengthening friendships that will sustain them long after the conference ended.

Comments from Participants

“It was a great conference! East Coast hospitality was at its finest!”





“ This was my third Survivors Conference, and I am very grateful for this opportunity. To meet new survivors and spend time with survivors I’ve met in the past plays a very important role in helping me to continue to live my life healthily, and it provides me with the strength to deal with everyday issues as a result of my widowhood and my single parent lifestyle.”

“ We had a wonderful time. We always wish that we had more time just to sit and talk but the workshops are so wonderful that we never want to miss anything. Thank you all for a great experience again!”

We hope to see you at an upcoming survivor event!

Project Roll Call – Pre-1981 LODDs

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial was built in 1981. It is a striking stone monument encircled by plaques listing the names of fire service members who died in the line of duty since then.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) has initiated Project Roll Call in order to identify and honor firefighters who died in the line of duty prior to 1981. The Foundation will be honoring these firefighters on our website and in the National Memorial Park in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Our goal is to provide an avenue for fire service families and departments to submit a profile of a loved one or colleague who made the ultimate sacrifice prior to 1981. All information collected will be researched and verified using guidelines very similar to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial inclusion criteria.

We are also currently working on including these heroes on our Roll of Honor, which can be found on our website at www.firehero.org. With the development of Project Roll Call, we are asking that family members, department members, or friends, send any information they may have, such as the firefighter’s name and rank, fire department name and address, bios, news articles, photos, tributes, incident reports, and any next-of-kin contact information so that we may enter it into our database and add it to our Fallen Firefighters web page.

If you have additional information, please send it to:

By mail:
National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
Attn: Donna Clark
2130 Priest Bridge Drive
Suite 6
Crofton, MD 21114

By email: dclark@firehero.org

By fax: 410-721-6213

The NFFF is creating a special section in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park to include a tribute to those firefighters who died in the line of duty prior to 1981. Individuals and agencies can dedicate bricks on the walkway in memory of those firefighters. If you would like to sponsor a brick in the special pre-1981 sections, you may download and complete the order form at: www.firehero.org/donate/fundraising/support-nfff-purchase/sponsor-a-brick.

To read more about Project Roll Call visit: www.firehero.org/fallen-firefighters/submit-firefighter-death/roll-call-submit-pre-1981-lodd.

For additional information about Project Roll Call, contact Donna Clark at dclark@firehero.org.



Scholarship Program for 2015-2016

The NFFF's Sarbanes Scholarship program provides financial assistance for post-secondary education and training to spouses, life partners, children, and stepchildren of firefighters honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Children and stepchildren must be under age 30 and have been under age 22 at the time of the firefighter's death. Scholarships are awarded for undergraduate and graduate studies, vocational-technical training, and certification and job training programs. They may be used for study at in-state or out-of-state public and private schools.

A Scholarship Committee comprised of members of the fire service, government, education and business community reviews all applications. Members use established eligibility requirements and selection criteria to award scholarships. A member of the Foundation's Board of Directors chairs the Scholarship Committee.

Thanks to a very generous donation from Motorola and the NFFF partnerships with ICMA-RC, National

Association of Fire Marshals, Global Health and Safety, The College Board and countless other donations made towards the NFFF Scholarship Program, this year, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation was able to award 70 scholarships totaling over \$210,000! Those awards were made to 61 children, 3 stepchildren, and 6 spouses.

Scholarship recipients are preparing for careers ranging from Christian Ministry to Criminal Justice, and several recipients are enrolled in a Fire Science program. The scholarship recipients include: 29 survivors of volunteer firefighters and 41 survivors of career firefighters.

The number of scholarships awarded has increased dramatically. The Foundation has awarded over \$855,800 since 1997. In addition, our scholarship partners have awarded over \$2,426,900 since 2001.

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship for the 2016-2017 school year, please visit www.firehero.org/resources/family-resources/programs/scholarships to learn more and to download an application package. Completed applications are due April 1, 2016.

I am an officer with the Centertown Fire Department in Tennessee. I am also the grandson of a retired career firefighter, as well as the son of a man in the professional fire protection industry. In short, I sort of come by it honestly! My grandfather, Captain Solon Hayes, retired in 2002 after more than 30 years as a professional firefighter, so in many ways I grew up in a fire station. I always knew that I wanted to be in the fire service and my connection with my grandfather and his men catalyzed that. Today I have served in the fire and rescue service for over 10 years, and work alongside many of the men who were under my grandfather's command.

I was in high school on September 11, 2001. While I always knew that I wanted to be a part of the fire service, the events of that day solidified that desire. Like many, I wanted to learn everything that I could about the events of that day, the FDNY, and the men who gave their lives. I read every book, article, and internet post that I could find on the subject. In 2002, shortly after my grandfather retired, the book *Firehouse* by David Halberstam was published and told the story of the men of FDNY's Engine 40/Ladder 35 house, including Captain Frank Callahan of Ladder 35. Of all the books and accounts that I read, this one stood out to me. More specifically, Captain Callahan stood out to me. The way he was described in the book reminded me so much of

Why I Climb

By R. Joseph Clark, BS, EMT, Lieutenant
Centertown (TN) Fire Department



my grandfather, not only the way that I observed my grandfather to be, but also the way he was viewed and described by his men. Reading the book's description of Captain Callahan reminded me so much of my own grandfather that it greatly humanized him to me. I was moved. It created such a tremendous respect in me for Captain Callahan that I felt that I developed somewhat of a connection, despite the fact that I never actually knew him. I developed an intense desire to honor this man and his sacrifice.

Shortly after reading the book, I purchased a memorial bracelet with Captain Callahan's name, company assignment, and the date 9-11-01 on it. I've had to take it off to repaint his name a few times due to years' worth of wear. Otherwise, it never leaves my right wrist. The Captain's name is inscribed in my helmet, along with a picture of my wife.

I am honored to climb for Captain Callahan during the Nashville 9/11 Stair Climb. I began in 2011, the first year that our department participated in the climb, and I have climbed for him every year since. The Nashville Climb is limited to only 343 firefighters, meaning that each of the FDNY firefighters who died on 9/11/01 only has one person climbing for him. The organizer of our event is a wonderful man who is aware of my desire to honor Captain Callahan, and is kind enough to reserve him for me each year.



Remembering Fallen Firefighters

Jamie Dickman (2014-OH)

Submitted by Sam Parsons, Central Ohio Golf Tournament Coordinator

The 9th annual Central Ohio Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament to benefit the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation was held on Friday August 14, 2015, at the Delaware Golf Club in Delaware, Ohio. The 2015 tournament was our biggest event in our nine-year history, with 88 golfers participating in golf as well as our live auction during the dinner portion of the event.

Present this year was the family of Toledo Fire & Rescue firefighter Jamie Dickman. Greg and Linda Dickman were eager to be present and to help in any way possible. We were honored to have them with us and excited to learn that our event was the first NFFF event they had attended. Firefighter Dickman, along with Firefighter Stephen Machcinski, died in the line of duty on January 26, 2014, in an arson fire while working for the Toledo Fire & Rescue Department.

2015 marked the first year that the Central Ohio Fallen Firefighters displayed our wall of honor honoring the firefighters and EMS professionals that have died in the line of duty throughout Ohio. The wall of honor is an important project that the Central Ohio Fallen Firefighters group are passionate about as it allows us the opportunity to bring a name and face to the reason we have our annual tournaments to benefit the NFFF.



Greg Dickman (center) with supporters of the Ohio golf tournament

Tim Sanborn (2005-MI)

Submitted by his wife, Marie Sanborn

I received a message from Firefighter Mark Mantyla on Tim's fire department asking my permission to seek a bill to have a section of highway dedicated in Tim's memory. I later received a phone call from State Representative Tom Leonard to get my blessing to continue with the process, as he presides over Clinton and Gratiot Counties in Michigan where the highway is located. It was a 1 ½ year process with a few glitches along the way, but in December 2014, Governor Snyder signed Bill 4936 renaming a 12-mile stretch the "Tim Sanborn Memorial Highway." This was a section of road he traveled to and from his fire department, Clinton Area Fire & Rescue. The dedication took place on the 8th anniversary of Tim's death, June 22, 2015. In the evening we held the Blessing of the Helmets at the fire station, with bagpipes, a balloon release, and the reading of the Firemen's Prayer by a representative of the Michigan State Firemen's Association. A HUGE butterfly made its appearance in the Bay door during the Blessing....fluttered around and then left.



Tim Sanborn (MI)-highway dedication

Last Chance to Order Walk of Honor Bricks in 2015

Looking for a unique holiday gift for someone special? Consider a brick to be placed in honor or in memory of someone special. Bricks ordered before December 31, 2015, will be placed in the Walk of Honor in May 2016.

For more information, visit <https://www.firehero.org/donate/fundraising/support-nfff-purchase/sponsor-a-brick> or contact the NFFF at (301) 447-1365.



Crash Survivors Reunite with Rescuers

For 29 years, Lisa Beavers Hegewisch hoped that someday she could thank the firefighters and paramedics who saved her from a horrific car crash in high school. She never thought that teaching a yoga class would be the gateway to such a reunion.

While planning for the 2015 National Fallen Firefighters Survivors Conference, NFFF staff member Jenny Woodall contacted Lisa about teaching yoga classes during the conference. At the end of the conference, Lisa shared her story of the tragic accident in Prince George's County (MD) that killed two of her friends and left her severely injured as they were driving home from high school. Lisa said the conference had reminded her of her desire to thank everyone who worked to save her life that day.

Jenny introduced Lisa to NFFF Executive Director Ron Siarnicki, a former chief of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department. Chief Siarnicki made some calls, and within a few weeks the connections were made. On August 17, 2015, Lisa was reunited with four of the firefighters and paramedics who saved her. Amid smiles and some tears, she embraced each one as he explained his role in her rescue.



Lisa Hegewisch (white dress) with her rescuers, supporters, and NFFF staff members

Department members also detailed how that accident spurred improvements in equipment in order to better deal with future incidents.

"I am grateful for how this unfolded," Lisa told an audience of firefighters, family, and friends. "I'm grateful for being able to teach at the conference and give something positive to the survivors. And I'm grateful because I feel I have received so much from so many. I'm just so happy to be here."

Organizations that Support the NFFF

Digital Ally

Survivors Darlene Mansfield and Pam Burditt, mother and sister of fallen firefighter Mark Burditt (2002-KS), represented the NFFF at a 5K race and golf tournament hosted by Digital Ally. This event was held in Overland Park, Kansas, on August 4-9, to benefit the NFFF and other charities. It



Darlene and Pam with tournament winner Martin Piller.

included silent and live auctions, live music by country music star, Travis Marvin, and a trophy ceremony at the end of the tournament. One golfer actually got a hole-in-one on a bank shot off one of the grandstands and won a brand new boat! Darlene and Pam also enjoyed visiting with some of the FF/EMT staff from Mark's department who were staffing the first aid station.

Thanks to Digital Ally for their support and to Darlene and Pam for representing us so well!

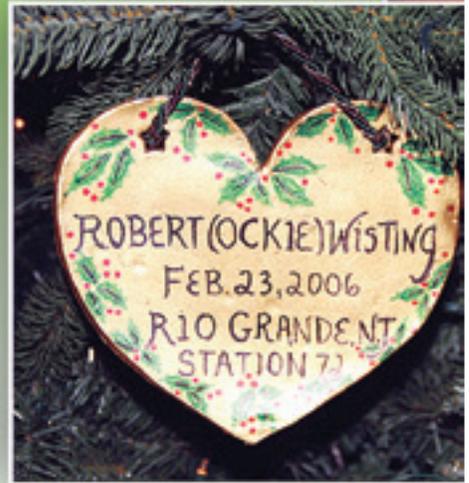
Memorial Wraps™

Memorial Wraps™ is a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB); owned and operated by a group of former US Army Rangers. This organization's principle objective is to bring awareness, honor and remembrance to those who gave all of themselves for the sake of others, including military, law enforcement, and firefighters. We will honor them in their death but want to highlight HOW THEY LIVED. Use the wraps as motivation, as a memory, as a functional piece of training equipment - but most of all, make sure that you never forget their names, faces and who they were.

We create and manufacture custom, friction weight-lifting wrist wraps that highlight military unit insignia, badge numbers/Thin Blue Line, and Thin Red Lines in addition to names, KIA dates and End of Watch Dates. Additionally, each pair of wraps is shipped with a 5" x 7" memorial placard that highlights a picture of the Military Service Member/LEO/Firefighter on one side and bio information about who they were and how they lived on the reverse side. We donate \$5 for every set of wraps sold. These proceeds will benefit organizations like: Gallant Few, National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, National Fallen Firefighter Foundation, and the Next Objective.

www.memorialwraps.com

REMEMBER YOUR FIREFIGHTER ON THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS HOLIDAY TREES



Each year the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation decorates Holiday Trees in memory of our fallen firefighters.

We encourage you to send us an ornament for the National Fallen Firefighters Holiday Trees. We use these ornaments year after year, so they will not be returned.

The Tree Lighting will take place at dusk on December 10, 2015. We would love to have you join us on the campus of the National Emergency Training Center for this event. We will post photos on our website at www.firehero.org.

**Please your send ornaments to:
National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
c/o Holiday Tree Program
PO Drawer 498, Emmitsburg, MD 21727**

In order to have your ornament placed before the Tree Lighting, we will need to receive your ornament by December 7, 2015.

If we receive your ornament after December 10, 2015 it will be placed on the tree and remain there until January.

This year we will be adding a holiday tree designated for firefighters who died in the line of duty prior to the creation of the National Memorial in 1981. If you would like to send an ornament to be placed on this tree, please mark your package "PRE-1981" and send it to the address listed above.



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!

www.firehero.org

(301) 447-1365 • (301) 447-1645 Fax

Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Post Office Drawer 498
National Fallen Firefighters Foundation



Save The Date!

February 25–28, 2016

Hal Bruno Camp (ages 4-6)

CoCo Key Hotel & Water Resort, Orlando, Florida

July 8-10, 2016

Hal Bruno Comfort Zone Camp (ages 7-17)

Lions Camp, Wrightwood, California

March 21, 2016

Firefighter Appreciation Event

Auto Club 400 -- Fontana, California

October 8-9, 2016

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend

Emmitsburg, Maryland

For additional information about upcoming events, please visit www.firehero.org.

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