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Please remember to notify us at firehero@firehero.org when you have a change of mailing or e-mail address!

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Save The Date!

July 11, 2015

Firefighter Appreciation Event
Kentucky Speedway
Sparta, Kentucky

July 30–August 2, 2015

*Hal Bruno Camp for Children of
Fallen Firefighters (ages 4-6)*
Orlando, Florida

October 2–4, 2015

*National Fallen Firefighters
Memorial Weekend*
Emmitsburg, Maryland

October 4, 2015

Firefighter Appreciation Event
Dover International Speedway
Dover, Delaware

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

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FACING TOMORROW TOGETHER

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
A Newsletter for Fire Service Survivors



Memorial Restoration Complete

The Maltese cross and dedication plaque have been restored and reinstalled at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. After years of exposure to the weather they had become quite corroded, and it is lovely to see them shining in their place of honor again. Come visit!

Special thanks to Mr. Jim Codori and his wonderful staff at Codori Memorials for their hard work to complete this project. Codori Memorials is located in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and has been family-owned and operated for over four generations. They are a longtime friend of the Foundation and also provide the engraved plaques bearing the names of the fallen firefighters honored at the Memorial Weekend each year. We truly appreciate their compassion for our families, their dedication to quality workmanship, and their commitment to supporting the Foundation's mission. ■



Survivors Enjoy NASCAR Nationwide



Auto Club 400 was the last stop for NASCAR on the Western Swing, and the NFFF was there to witness an awesome last lap maneuver by Brad Keselowski for the win! Eight survivors representing Oregon, Utah, and Maryland enjoyed the day's events and the southern California sunshine and warmth.

The 1st Responders Event was well attended. Aric Almarola, driver of the #43 car, spoke to the crowd.

The next NFFF NASCAR stop will be the Quaker State 400 at the Kentucky Speedway on July 11th, followed by the always exciting Monster Mile at Dover on October 4th. ■





FIRE SERVICE NEWS



Firefighter Occupational Medicine

JoEllen Kelly, PhD, *Everyone Goes Home Program*

A

ll activities of the NFFF’s Everyone Goes Home (EGH) Program must support the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives – to prevent, to the greatest extent possible, line-of-duty injuries and deaths. Some of these efforts can have almost immediate impacts—such as education and training programs—while others are recognized as long-term projects with important pay offs. The programs of Initiative 6 regarding medical and physical standards fall into this second category.

This past March, EGH hosted a meeting called Advancing Occupational Health in the American Fire Service. The goal of the gathering was to begin the process of improving how occupational medicine is delivered to firefighters across the country. In attendance were ten occupational physicians with strong ties to the fire service.

“Occ med” in the fire service can be offered by physicians who are department employees, or by doctors who are hired as consultants but who work for private corporations.

The vast majority of occ med, however, occurs between the firefighter and his or her primary care physician (PCP). Often, these PCPs are not trained in occupational medicine or the particular diseases of firefighters, including coronary disease, stress injuries, and a particular group of cancers.

Having said all that, it is very important for PCPs to have what they need to care for firefighters. Much of what was discussed by the occ med docs at this meeting centered on building relationships, improving communication, and the development of education and training initiatives by the fire service for community-based physicians. Firefighters, as well, should have material to give their PCP at the time of the annual physical.

If you would like to know more about firefighter occupational health, please consult the EGH website at www.everyonegoeshome.com periodically to stay abreast of how this project evolves. If you would like some specific information, please contact me at jkelly@everyonegoeshome.com ■

Get in Shape/Support the NFFF

W

ant to do something good for your cardiac health while supporting the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation? Here are a few upcoming events that have committed to raising money to benefit the NFFF.

Event: Runner’s Depot Fire Hero 5K Run & Fitness Walk
Location: Hollywood, Florida
Date: September 6, 2015
For More Info: Search for event name on Facebook
2nd year the NFFF has been a benefactor

Event: Dewitt PFA 5K
Location: Dewitt, New York
Date: September 11, 2015
For More Info: Search for event name on Facebook
2nd year the NFFF has been a full benefactor

Event: Arlington Police, Fire & Sheriff 9/11 Memorial 5K
Location: Arlington, Virginia
Date: September 12, 2015
For More Info: www.arlington911Race.com/Index.html
Benefiting NFFF and other charities.
2nd year the NFFF has been a benefactor

Event: Run For The Fallen—Kronenwetter Fire Department
5K · 10K · 1 Mile Firefighter Challenge · 1 Mile Kid’s Fun Run
Location: Kronenwetter, Wisconsin
Date: September 13, 2015
For More Info: www.kronenwetterfallfest.org ■



New Members of NFFF BOD and Advisory Committee

Mary Bynum, Assistant Vice President in P&C Underwriting at State Farm Insurance Companies, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. In addition, Chief G. Keith Bryant, Kelly Kirwan, and Carol Jones are now members of the foundation's Advisory Committee.

"We are so pleased to have these long-time NFFF supporters join us in their new roles," said Board Chairman Dennis Compton. "Each of them brings leadership, a wealth of experience, enthusiasm, and insights that will be invaluable as we fulfill our mission of honoring the fallen, assisting their families, and supporting the fire service efforts of reducing line-of-duty deaths and serious injuries."



Mary Bynum began her State Farm career in 1992 as an Auto Underwriter in the Ballston Spa Regional Office. She was promoted through the ranks to Auto Supervisor; Underwriting Analyst; Auto Underwriting Section Manager in the Illinois Operations Center; Customer Response Center (CRC) Director in Bloomington, IL; Auto & Fire Underwriting Division Manager in the Newark, Ohio Operations Center; Executive Assistant; and Assistant Vice President in P&C Underwriting in September 2011. She has responsibility for the P&C Underwriting Services Business Management Office, P&C Underwriting Personal Lines Product Area, and P&C Underwriting Modeling Unit.

Mary received her bachelor's degree from Hartwick College in New York. She earned her Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) and is working to complete her Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) designation.



In 2005, **G. Keith Bryant** was appointed Fire Chief of the Oklahoma City Fire Department, one of the largest departments in the nation. He began his fire service career as a firefighter in the US Army and became an Oklahoma City Firefighter in 1982. During his 32 years with Oklahoma City, Chief Bryant worked his way through the ranks serving on the Haz-Mat, Underwater Rescue Recovery and Critical Incident Stress Management Teams. He has held the ranks of Battalion Chief, Chief Training Officer, and Deputy Chief of Operations.

In August 2014, Chief Bryant was sworn in as President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). He is Past President of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, and Past President of the Oklahoma Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA).



Carol Jones searched to find a career that would fulfill her desire to help others, make a difference in her community, challenge her mentally and physically, and allow her to be a part of something extraordinary. In 1984, Carol found the adventure she was looking for when she followed in her father's footsteps to become a firefighter.

Now a 30-year veteran of the Fort Worth Fire Department, Carol was promoted from Firefighter to Driver/Engineer and finally to Lieutenant. The majority of her career she has worked in Operations on the frontline, where she has found great satisfaction assisting others in their time of need. Her certifications include Hazardous Materials Technician, Firefighter Advanced, Fire Inspector, Fire Service Instructor II, and Aircraft Rescue Firefighter.

In March 2002, Carol's husband, Fire Chief Louis Jones of Roswell, New Mexico, died in the line of duty. After Louis was honored by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in October 2003, Carol again began searching for a way to give back, help others and honor Louis. In 2004, Carol began volunteering with the NFFF during the Memorial Weekend as a Family Escort, where she has been honored to serve the families of our fallen heroes ever since. Carol also works with the NFFF peer support team, reaching out to new survivors, serving as the keynote speaker at fundraising events, and volunteering at local events on behalf of the Foundation. In her spare time, Carol loves traveling the world with friends and family.

Kelly Kirwan recently retired from Motorola Solutions Inc. as Corporate Vice President, Government Markets – North America after 32 years of service. Kelly joined Motorola in 1983 as a Radio Communications Representative in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was promoted to Zone Sales Manager in Salt Lake City and in Colorado Springs, CO; District Sales Manager in Anchorage, AK; Sales Team Leader in Portland, OR; Territory Manager in San Diego, CA; MCEI Vice President of Sales - Southern Division in Florida, later Eastern Region; and corporate Vice President responsible for go-to-market, channel management, business operations, and systems integration and services.

During the 2005 hurricane season, Kelly helped restore communications to public safety agencies in areas impacted by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. Motorola's response to these natural disasters represented the single largest disaster recovery effort in the company's history.

Kelly received a bachelor's degree in communications from Utah State University, where he lettered in football and wrestling. ■



Remembering Fallen Firefighters

Kevin Seaburg (1997-NY)



Submitted by his daughter, Jessica Seaburg
Honored her father by running a 5K

Event: Schenectady Firefighters Run 4 Your Life 5k
Date: March 28, 2015
Location: Central Park, Schenectady, New York
Website: www.schenectadyfirefightersrun4yourlife.jigsy.com

This was my third 5k race, and the weather conditions were horrible! We were running through ice, snow, and the temps were in the teens. Needless to say, I didn't finish where I expected, but I finished the run with pride. This race was special to me because of the firefighter component, but also that most of the proceeds go directly to the American Heart Association. My dad died from a massive heart attack.

Charles Edgar and Jose Victor Gonzales (TX), and John Greeno (CA) (2005)

Remembered on 10th anniversary of their deaths

A memorial ceremony was held at Boles Field in Sabine National Forest on March 10, 2015, to mark the 10th anniversary of a helicopter crash that killed Edgar, Gonzales, and Greeno during a prescribed burn. Members of all three families attended the ceremony to remember these men. Felix Holmes, a retired forest service employee who worked with Charles Edgar, was instrumental in arranging this ceremony.



Kevin Pryor (2008-CA)

Submitted by his father, Mark Pryor
Field dedicated in his honor



On February 28, 2015, Oak Park High School in Oak Park, California, dedicated and named its varsity baseball field "Kevin Pryor Field" in honor of my son. Kevin was a four-year varsity starter from 1992-1995 and helped lead the Oak Park Eagles to their first two league championships in 1994 and 1995. He passed up the opportunity to play college baseball in order to pursue a career as a firefighter.

This is especially special to our family, since my other son, Eric, and I coach the varsity baseball team and have the honor of stepping onto this field every day.

Rodney Miller (2013-PA)

Submitted by his parents, Paul and Elaine Miller
Family visited National Fallen Firefighters Memorial

The family of Chief Rodney Miller attended the 2014 Memorial Weekend when he was honored, but they wanted to visit the Memorial when there was not a crowd and they could linger for a bit of quiet reflection and private remembrance. They spent time at the Memorial and did rubbings of Rodney's name on the plaque and on bricks in the Walk of Honor. They visited the Chapel to light candles, search for the messages they had written on the 2013 Remembrance Banner, and join together in prayer.



Remembering Friends



Glenn Gaines, Deputy Fire Administrator

It was with profound sadness that we learned of the death of Deputy Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines on Sunday, April 12, 2015.

He was universally respected and admired for his dedication to all aspects of the fire service. Throughout his 35-year career, Chief Gaines led with quiet resolve and was committed to learning from the past to improve the future.

Chief Gaines served with the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the Department of Homeland Security from its inception in 2001 until 2009. He was a principal architect and member of the senior staff for three of the primary grants managed by FEMA's Grants Program Office, and was the agency's lead in developing the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program in 2005.

Among his many awards and accolades are the International Association of Fire Chiefs Metropolitan Fire Chiefs President's Award of Distinction, Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Lifetime Achievement Award and the International Association of Fire Chiefs President's Award.

Glenn Gaines was a longtime friend of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and often visited the Fallen

Firefighters Memorial Chapel where he spent time in quiet reflection. He will be missed, and we offer our most sincere condolences to his family and loved ones.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation sincerely thanks the family of Deputy Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines for designating NFFF to receive donations in his honor. Chief Gaines was a very loyal supporter of the Foundation and its efforts to honor the fallen, assist their survivors, and prevent firefighter line-of-duty deaths and injuries.

Here are two ways you can honor Glenn with your donation:

Remember Glenn with an engraved brick in a special section in the National Walk of Honor in Emmitsburg. You can purchase a brick for \$100 with a special message about him.

Make a donation, in memory of Glenn, to the NFFF. Go to www.firehero.org/donate to make your donation online, or mail a check to PO Drawer 498, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. Please note that your gift is in tribute to Chief Glenn Gaines.

Your gift will be both a testament to Glenn's legacy in the fire service and his commitment to supporting the mission of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Thank you.

Shawn Millington, Survivor and Memorial Weekend Escort



Shawn Millington was a big guy. At 6'4", he cast an imposing shadow. Shawn's handshakes and hugs were not exactly something to be feared as much as something to be prepared for. He also had one of the biggest hearts around. Shawn attended the 2006 Memorial Weekend, when his stepfather, [Edwin King \(2005-KS\)](#), was honored. Since then, Shawn returned

every year to serve as a family escort during the Memorial Weekend, and if you speak to the families who were entrusted to Shawn, they would tell you of his unparalleled capacity to love.

Shawn's generosity was matched only by his gentle nature. He had the ability to make whomever he was speaking with feel like the most important person in his life at that moment. He was equally comfortable acting as

a family escort as he was talking about deer hunting or cars or firefighting, all of which were passions of his.

Shawn died suddenly on March 28, 2015, at age 44. He was doing what he always did—helping a friend—when he suffered a fatal cardiac arrest. The world is a better place because Shawn was part of it, and he certainly eased the pain of fellow family survivors who met Shawn. Thank you for your service, friend. We will miss you.

Shawn was an amazing, tenderhearted, compassionate man. A survivor himself, he always put the needs of other survivors and fellow firefighters above his own. He took his duties very personally, making sure the fallen and their families were honored and given the support they needed. He was always there to give hugs. If I was having a bad day he would call and make me laugh. He will be sorely missed by many, but forgotten by none!

-Dawn Ruane, life partner of Jonathan C.W. Young
(2011-NJ)

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Mary Wheatley, Survivor and Non-Profit Founder



Mary Wheatley became involved with the NFFF after the death of her son, Firefighter/Paramedic Christopher Wheatley (2010-IL), who died in the line of duty while serving with the Chicago Fire Department. In June 2012, Mary attended a NFFF Parents & Siblings Focus Group in National Harbor, Maryland, to gather information from parents and siblings regarding the types of support that would be most helpful for them. She became a member of the NFFF's Survivor Network, providing support to other moms who had lost a firefighter in the line of duty.

Mary also created the FF/PM Christopher D. Wheatley Memorial Foundation (<http://cdwmemorialfoundation.org>) in October, 2011. She wrote about that experience:

I had no idea when the doorbell rang August 9, 2010, that I would ever be able to exist without my dear son, Chris. I never thought I would be running a non-profit organization, taking classes in non-profit management, or hosting a fundraising event. I never thought that my actions would bring smiles to someone receiving a scholarship initiated from an organization based on the life of one of my family members. But here we are. Less than two years from Chris' passing, his spirit has inspired all of us to "pass it forward," bringing good from tragedy. Our intent now is to continue to honor Chris through HIS organization and to continue to work to help others whose intent is to serve their fellow human beings.

Mary, thank you for your outspoken, candid advocacy and your steadfast support on behalf of fire service survivors. We will miss you!

I can't begin to express the sadness with losing such an inspirational human being! I've developed some lifelong friendships with NFFF, and these are more like family than just friends. Sometimes the greatest accomplishments are behind the scenes, and Mary inspired us Moms in so many positive ways!

-Angie Heusinger, mother of Jonathan S. Croom (2009-NY)

Mary Wheatley was the first Mom Survivor I met through NFFF. Her strength, wisdom, commitment and humor amazed me. She taught me that it was okay to laugh without guilt, cry without being judged, and I did all of those things with her and shared memories of our wonderful sons. One thing that she would always say was "This is our lives now, we didn't choose it, it's what we were given. It's up to us to make sure our sons' sacrifices were not in vain." RIP My Wonderful Friend.

-Diane French, mother of Michael "Frenchie" French (2007-SC)

For all of us who have been inducted into the NFFF Family, because of our losses, every moment matters more than the last. Everyone has their own journey in which this new life will take them. Life happens with or without us, so we should make the best of every moment. Mary did that. She made the best of every moment.

-Heidi Packard, wife of David Packard (2006-NH)

Meet the Staff



Eric Nagle

Program Specialist

Eric joined the Foundation staff as a part-time employee in 2003 to assist the Foundation with firefighter research and development of our computer network.

He joined full-time in August 2004 and has previously worked in Fire Service Programs assisting with the LAST program and Memorial Weekend planning.

He currently serves as a programs specialist, assisting with coordination of the Foundation's website and logistics for the Hal Bruno Kids Camp program for 7-17 year olds. He also coordinates honor guards for various Foundation events and serves as stage manager

of the production team for the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend.

Eric holds an associate degree in electronics and resides in Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, with his son. He is the past fire chief of the Cashtown Community Fire Department in Adams County, Pennsylvania.

"Working for the Foundation, I have the privilege of serving in many capacities to assist the members of the nation's fire service and our family of survivors. The most amazing opportunity, working with the Hal Bruno Kids Camp program, has provided me with lessons in strength, love, resilience, and grace that far surpass understanding! I am humbled and grateful to the kids for those lessons and look forward to continuing to provide support to this program that means so much to so many for a long time!" ■



E-ONE is Improving Practices While Supporting NFFF

E-ONE recently completed a customer satisfaction survey to not only obtain the voice of the customer on the company's products and services, but to also raise funds for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF).

"Customer feedback is integral to the goals of our organization and surveys are one of many ways to obtain that voice of the customer. However, typically survey responses are significantly stronger when participants are incentivized but that incentive only benefits one or a handful of participants," said Jay Johnson, vice president of sales and product management for E-ONE. "Because we wanted a strong response to our survey but also wanted an incentive that would benefit others, we decided to use the survey as an opportunity to raise money for a

great organization in our industry, the NFFF."

"Overall, it's a win-win for E-ONE and NFFF – we learn how to make our product and experiences better while raising much-needed funds for a great organization," said Johnson.

As a leading manufacturer of first responder vehicles, E-ONE engineers and manufactures mission-critical vehicles including pumpers and tankers, WaterMaster® vacuum tankers, aerial ladders and platforms, command and communication apparatus, quick attack units, industrial trucks, and aircraft rescue firefighting vehicles. The company sells its products worldwide and is headquartered in Ocala, Florida. E-ONE is an ISO 9001 registered and CCC certified manufacturer. For more information, visit www.e-one.com. ■

Survivor Donates Photo to Raise Funds for the Survivors Conference

Fire service survivor Nevin Steffy, son of fallen firefighter Edward Steffy (2011-PA), took this photograph during a controlled burn exercise held in Rock Hall, Maryland, in October 2014. While he was shooting photos of the flames, Bobby Finck, a career firefighter with the Anne Arundel County Fire Department and a volunteer at Church Hill in Queen Anne's County, walked into the frame, and this image was captured.

Nevin matted and framed the photo and donated it to the Stop Drop Rock 'n' Roll auction at FDIC. The photo sold for \$500, and Nevin requested that the money be designated to help support the 2015 Survivors Conference.

Thanks for sharing your talents on behalf of NFFF survivor programs! What a wonderful, creative example of paying it forward. ■



Birthday Bash Benefits the NFFF

Dave Statter, longtime supporter and media consultant to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, recently celebrated one of those birthdays that end in a zero. He agreed to a birthday party in celebration of this milestone only if tickets were sold and proceeds donated to support the NFFF. We so appreciate the work that Dave does on our behalf every day. His commitment to the Foundation is evident, and we are grateful that people actually paid to celebrate Dave's milestone birthday. On behalf of the NFFF Board of Directors and staff, we offer our thanks for Dave's many years of support...and Happy Birthday to you! ■

Happy Birthday!

