

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!

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Save The Date!

January 1–April 1, 2015

*NFFF Scholarship Application Period for
2015-16 School Year*

April 25, 2015

*Volunteer Training for Hal Bruno Camp for
Children of Fallen Firefighters*
Windsor Locks, Connecticut

June 12–14, 2015

*Hal Bruno Camp for Children of Fallen
Firefighters (ages 7-17)*
Bantam, Connecticut

June 28–July 1, 2015

Fire Service Survivors Conference
Annapolis, Maryland

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

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



Wrapping Up 2014: Thank You for Your Support!



As we wind down 2014 and welcome in a new year, we would like to take a moment to thank all of you who helped support the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's work throughout the year. Whether you volunteered your time, made donations, or spoke out to share our mission, we are very fortunate and deeply grateful to have the support of such a generous and talented group of people. This issue of the newsletter

includes stories about some of those who supported the NFFF in a variety of ways in 2014.

As our programs grow and change, the core mission remains the same—to support the surviving families and departments of firefighters who die in the line of duty, and to make things safer for firefighters who still serve. Thank you for helping us to do that.

May good things await you in the New Year. ■

Spotlight on...Young People Supporting NFFF

If you feel like all the stories in the news these days are negative, here are a few stories about young people who might help restore your sense of hope for the future. Many thanks to all of you for supporting the survivors of America's fallen firefighters. May your futures be bright.

Happy Birthday for a Cause



The De La Rosa Family



Dear National Fallen Firefighters Foundation,
Enclosed is a \$1,000 donation. For our daughter's 3rd birthday, she decided she wanted a firefighter themed party. We are blessed with lots of family and friends and decided this year to begin teaching our daughter that we can do our part to give to others. Instead of presents, we asked our guests to help us donate to your Foundation. We were pleased with the results and easily raised \$1,000. Although only 3, our daughter understood the concept and was happy to give to others who need it much more than we do.

Thank you,
Bella, Mary, and Stephen De La Rosa

"Be a Hero, Save a Hero" Award presented to 9-year-old Home Fire Safety Advocate

Ask most 9-year-olds if they would use their saved money for a video game system or smoke alarms; the vast majority would not only select the video game system but also tell you what games they would buy. But Hector Montoya from Texas is not like most 9-year olds. Hector saved his money to buy a new PlayStation 4 gaming system. After

hearing about a fire that killed a mom and her young daughter in a Fort Worth home that had no working smoke alarms, Hector decided to buy 100 smoke alarms for his community instead of a video game system. This began his mission to distribute smoke alarms in his community and to raise awareness of the importance of smoke alarms. Since April 2014, Hector has donated more than 2,600 smoke alarms in his community.

In recognition of his efforts, Hector was the first-recipient of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's "Be a Hero, Save a Hero" award, sponsored by Kidde Fire Safety. Hector was presented the award at the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Fire-Rescue International conference in Dallas. Chief Ronald Siarnicki, executive director of the NFFF, said after meeting Hector, "If Hector is any indication of the next generation of home fire safety advocates, then we are certainly in good hands." Neal Zipser, community affairs manager for Kidde Fire Safety, was equally impressed after meeting Hector. "Hector's selfless act of providing smoke alarms in his community not only helps the people he gave smoke alarms to, but also raises awareness of the importance of properly installed and maintained smoke alarms."

For more information on the NFFF's "Be a Hero, Save a Hero" campaign and to take the Alarm pledge, visit www.beaherosaveahero.org, "like" www.facebook.com/beaherosaveahero or follow @NFFFBeaHero on Twitter.



Hector Montoya receives his award.

Senior Project Supports NFFF and Physical Fitness among Emergency Service Providers

Dear National Fallen Firefighters Foundation,
I had the pleasure of raising money for your foundation this fall for my high school senior project. I have been a volunteer fireman for almost two years at Chelan County Fire





Will Demarest runs a marathon in turnout gear.

District #3. I wanted to give back to the fire service because it has been a hugely positive influence in my life.

The project had a dual goal; first was to raise money for the foundation, the second goal was to raise awareness for physical fitness among emergency service providers.

I accomplished both goals by running the 2014 Leavenworth marathon in full turnout gear and an air pack (minus the boots). I started collecting donations the month before the event. I raised a total of \$515 for the foundation.

Overall, I am overjoyed by the outcome of my project. I learned a lot about myself and the community that I serve. Thanks for this amazing opportunity; I could not have asked for a better organization to support.

Sincerely,

Will Demarest, Leavenworth, Washington



Fraternity Hosts Fireman's Challenge, Supports NFFF

The gentlemen of the Theta Pi Chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity at the University of Alabama in Huntsville hosted their first annual Pike Fireman's Challenge on August 23, 2014. The event raised funds for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and local fire departments.

For a \$10 entry fee, participants endured an obstacle course designed to simulate the challenges faced by firefighters in the line of duty.

Theta Pi was blessed with a staggering amount of local support. Teams with fire trucks from the Monrovia and Madison Volunteer Fire Departments attended to compete and socialize with spectators. Lowe's Home Improvement acted as the main sponsor for the first annual Theta Pi Pike Fireman's Challenge and donated over \$2,000 worth of materials to construct the obstacle course competition. Among the other sponsors were local vendors who served food and drink to spectators, local franchises who donated raffle prizes, and the UAH Hockey Team who came out in force to help with the event.

Thanks to the local sponsors, overwhelming attendance, and a lot of hard work, the Theta Pi Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha was able to raise \$6,000 in their first year. Out of that, they grossed \$2,500 of proceeds for donation. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation received 50% of the proceeds, amounting to \$1,250. The remaining proceeds were split between the Monrovia Volunteer Fire Department and Madison Fire. The brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha hope to double this value in next year's Fireman's Challenge and can't wait to do it again. ■



Theta Pi Chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity at the University of Alabama in Huntsville





The Memorial Service was wonderful—dignified and poignant. I left feeling an immense sense of pride for the life lived and work done by my husband.



2014 National Fallen Firefig



To our 2014 honored families, thank you for making firefighters.

To our pre-2014 families, thank you for coming firefighters along with your own.

To the firefighters from across the nation who tra help support families who have lost one of their own, thank you. Y

To the corporate and government partners and our generous do your ongoing and unwavering support.

To the families and friends of all the firefighters who have been your firefighters in our hearts, and we hope you find comfort in k

To see video and photos from the 2014 Memorial Weekend, vis Visit www.fireherostore.com to purchase Memorial Weekend an 2014 services will be available for purchase at this site soon. ■



Daughters Memorial Weekend



g the trip to be with us in Emmitsburg to pay tribute to your

back to help welcome these new families and to honor their

aveled to Emmitsburg to honor your brothers and sisters and to
You do the fire service proud.

ponsors who help fund all the activities for families, thank you for

honored at the National Memorial, we continue to hold you and
knowing that your loved ones will always be remembered.

visit <http://weekend.firehero.org>.

and other National Fallen Firefighters merchandise. DVDs of the



*My family and I will never ever
forget what an awesome weekend
we had.*



Remembering

Dennis Lemery (1994-CT)

Submitted by his father, Real Lemery

A groundbreaking ceremony was held to begin construction of a fire training facility in Killingly, Connecticut, which will be dedicated to the memory of a volunteer fire lieutenant. Dennis Lemery died on October 18, 1994, while responding to a call with the Dayville Fire Department. He was 36.

The facility is scheduled for completion in 2015 and will be available to Killingly's six volunteer fire departments, as well as other area departments. Members of the Lemery family participated in the groundbreaking ceremony.

Kenneth Strain (1999-NC)

Submitted by his father, Bill Strain

Here's a picture of our fallen firefighter honor unit. The truck was donated to us from Rose Hill, Alabama. It is dedicated to Kenneth and our fallen firefighters. We are a 501c3 in the name of "Kenneth Strain 2328 Foundation."

We have participated in the Mathews, NC, Union County Muster; Charlotte Thanksgiving Parade; Charlotte Stair Climb; and Mint Hill 911 Service. Our purpose is to educate the public and firefighters. The next step to be completed is to have the 254 names of North Carolina fallen firefighters since 1902 added to the side compartments.

Mark Johnson (2010-IL)

Submitted by Steve Tullis,
son of Arthur "Bucky" Tullis (1999-IL)

Firefighter Steve Tullis and Lieutenant Mike Neville are teaming up to start a new business, which provides CPR certification, AED, and first aid training courses. The company is called "Mark" in honor of Hinsdale Deputy Fire Chief Mark Johnson, who died in the line of duty on September 20, 2010.

Members of the Hinsdale Fire Department hold a charity softball event, called Big's Bare Knuckle Tournament, every year to help raise money for local charities in honor of



Above and below: The Fallen Firefighters Honor Unit donated by Rose Hill, Alabama dedicated to Kenneth Strain and all fallen firefighters.



Deputy Chief Johnson and his family. Over the last four years, the softball event has raised over \$40,000.

This new company, Mark, is just another way to continue Deputy Chief Johnson's legacy of helping people and saving lives. Tullis and Neville are certified CPR Instructors through the American Heart Association, and are licensed paramedics in the state of Illinois. Currently they offer two different training courses, HeartSaver AED and CPR for Healthcare Professionals. ■



Lighting of the Survivor Tree



The Survivor Tree Lighting and Open House was held in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel on December 10. We were entertained again this year by the Frederick Adventist Academy bell choir, who performed from the balcony in the Chapel. The children and their director were dressed in their finery, including red silk bow ties and white gloves. They are a sight to behold and a talented young group of musicians.

Survivor Linda Buckel shared her story about her husband, Pete, and placed an ornament in his memory on one of the holiday trees in the Chapel. In attendance were survivors from Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. After a short ceremony, the group moved outdoors to count down and light the outside Survivor Tree, decorated with the wooden ornaments prepared during the 2014 Survivors Conference.

A special thank you to the holiday elves who helped decorate the inside and outside of the Chapel, and to survivor Bob Stanmire for acquiring and delivering the beautiful poinsettias in the Chapel. ■



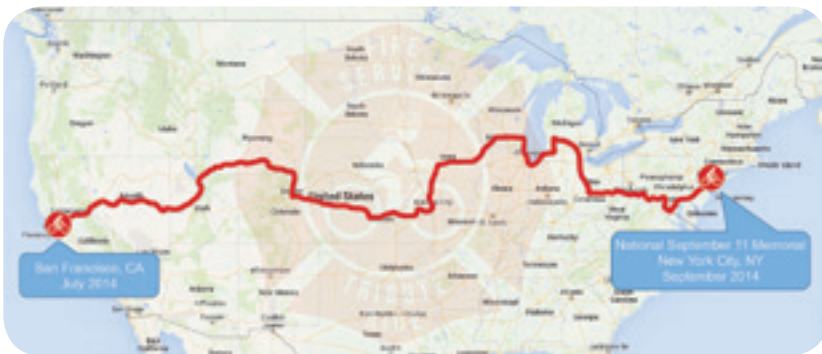
Fire Service Tribute Ride:

A cross-country bike ride to remember and honor all fallen firefighters

By Jeffrey Moore

I am 24 years old and a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. For the past four years, I have worked as a firefighter and paramedic for the Town of Madison Fire Department to support myself during school. I am a second-generation firefighter. My father, Bruce Moore, had a career as a firefighter in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Once I moved to Madison I became an avid cyclist, and during the summer of 2013 I made it a goal to bike to every fire station in my county. I would stop at the stations, knock on the door and ask for water and maybe a station tour. All of the firefighters were extremely welcoming and proud of their departments, and they really enjoyed showing me around. So I took that idea of visiting every fire station in Dane County, and I stretched it across the whole country. I have always been interested in traveling the country, but I wanted this bicycle tour to be something larger than that and to really represent the fire service in a positive manner.



In January 2014, I got in touch with Barbara King at the NFFF, and she helped establish the fundraising portion of the ride. I sent about 60 letters to different fire stations along my planned route, telling them who I was and asking if I could spend the night at their stations and eat dinner with the crews. Everyone was extremely helpful, and many different fire departments helped network to other stations in their areas. I was able to visit over 70 fire stations along the way, and every firefighter I met was helpful and supportive. I have found that firefighters from coast to coast are genuinely committed to helping others and serving their communities. It is very encouraging.

I established two goals for the ride--to honor, respect, and remember all fallen firefighters and to promote a positive image for the American fire service. Along the way many



Jeffrey Moore with a large donation check.

donations were made, and a lot of good awareness was raised for the Foundation and the fire service in general. I spent one night with the Vigilant Hose Company in Emmitsburg, and I got to visit the National Fire Academy and the Memorial grounds. I arrived in New York City for the National September 11 Memorial on the evening of September 10.

The trip lasted 63 days, and I covered approximately 4,320 miles. I had 9 flats and had to change my tires in Wyoming and a second time for the rear tire in

Washington, DC. Otherwise, the bike held up great, a lot of it because of the helpful firefighter/bike mechanics I met along the way. I was also fortunate enough to ride with many different firefighters and community members. I'd guess that I had someone riding with me around a third of the time on the road. I enjoyed all of the stories shared while riding.

Different fire crews went with me to visit various state and national firefighter memorials, and together we were able to remember those firefighters who have died in the line of duty. There was even one opportunity in Michigan to dedicate a day of riding specifically for a firefighter who recently died in the line of duty. Things like this made the trip more personal and really helped to bring the focus home.

Many different unions, fire department associations, businesses, organizations, and individuals were willing to donate to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in support of the ride.

The people I met along the way were absolutely incredible. It has been the opportunity of a lifetime to have met so many great people willing to take care of me, as well as support their local fire department. I found it very encouraging and positive, and I hope that I was able to make a positive impact on you all in some way as well. ■



NFFF Chairman Dennis Compton Receives Award

Congratulations to the chairman of our Board of Directors, Chief Dennis Compton, who received the 2014 Dr. John Granito Award for Excellence in Fire Leadership and Management Research.

The award is named in recognition of Dr. Granito, Professor Emeritus and Retired Vice President for Public Service and External Affairs at the State University of New York at Binghamton and an internationally known public safety management consultant. Chief Compton was the unanimous choice for the prestigious award. ■



Chief Dennis Compton

NFFF Supports Development of Resource for Child Burn Survivors

Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors has launched an online version of its school reentry program The Journey Back. The program, used in over 106 hospitals across the country, was developed in collaboration with experts in burn care, education, trauma, child development, mental health, fire prevention and families who have been through a traumatic burn or loss, to consider all aspects of a successful return to school. The online program allows for teachers, school professionals, parents, and peers to quickly access information to assist a child in the school reentry process after a burn injury or traumatic loss.

Phoenix Society encourages burn care professionals, mental health professionals, fire safety educators, teachers and family members to use The Journey Back program and offer it as an option when any child returns to school after a burn injury or traumatic loss. The complete program can be accessed online at no cost at www.phoenix-society.org/journeyback.

This program was developed through the collaborative efforts of a number of fire service organizations and corporate partners, including the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. ■

Changes to NFFF Advisory Committee

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Board of Directors consists of representatives from the fire service, fire service survivors, the private sector, and government.

All members have a strong interest in fire safety and honoring our nation's firefighters. Advisory Committee members lend additional expertise and support to the Foundation's programs by serving in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors.

On December 31, 2014, the terms of three members of the Advisory Committee ended, and new members will be appointed to serve in those positions effective January 1, 2015. The Foundation thanks Chief Doug Barry (Ret.), Eileen Coglianese, and Helen King for their service on the Advisory Committee. Board Chairman Chief Dennis Compton stated, "These individuals have provided counsel and guidance to

the Foundation's Board which has been invaluable to the mission of our organization, and we are grateful for their assistance." ■



Chief Ron Siarnicki, Eileen Coglianese, Chief Doug Barry, Helen King, and Chief Dennis Compton

