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“
It's an honor to work alongside of such dedicated and giving people. Without the understanding and support of our sponsors, it would be impossible to support our fallen firefighters' families and co-workers.
”

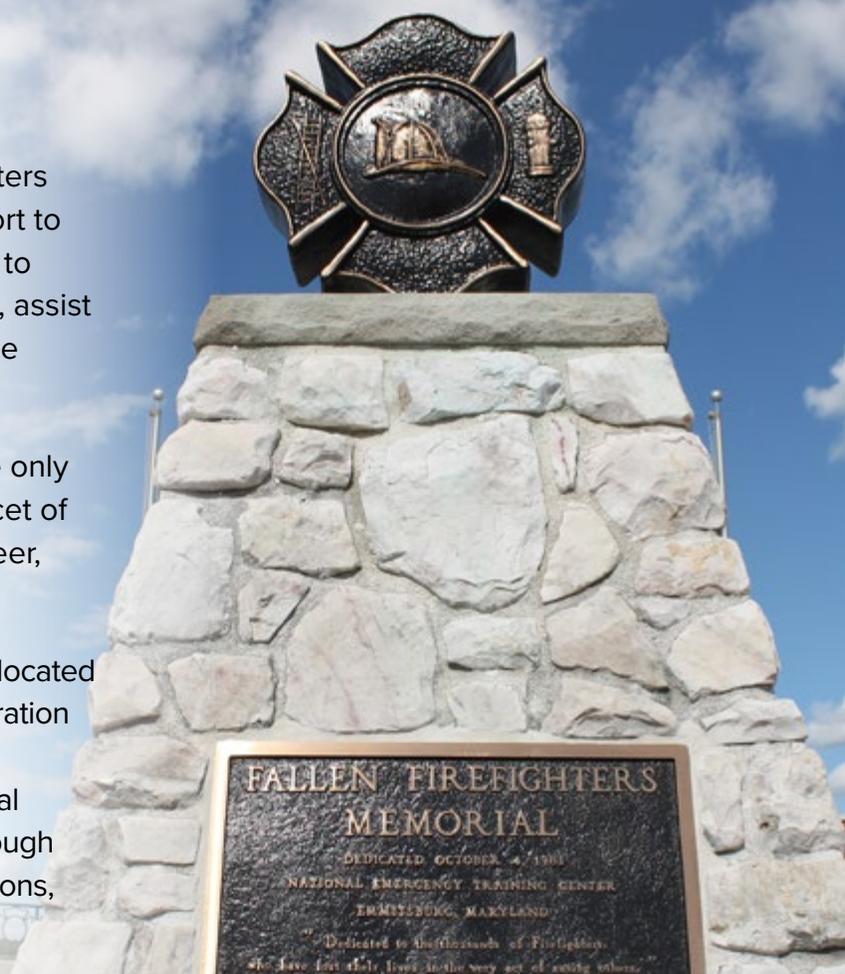
— Chief Dennis Compton
Chairman of the Board, NFFF

About Us

Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in 1992 to lead a nationwide effort to honor America's fallen firefighters. Our mission is to honor and remember America's fallen fire heroes, assist their survivors in re-building their lives, and reduce firefighter deaths and injuries.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is the only fire service organization that represents every facet of the American fire service—career, military, volunteer, and wildland.

The Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, located in Emmitsburg, Maryland. It is registered as a corporation in the State of Maryland. When Congress created the Foundation, it did not provide funding or financial assistance, so the Foundation relies on funding through private donations from caring individuals, organizations, corporations, federal grants, and other foundations.



Our Programs

▪ Survivor Programs

- Fire Service Survivors Network
- Grief Resources/Publications
- Survivors Wellness Conference
- Memorial Weekend
- Hal Bruno Camps for Children of Fallen Firefighters
- Young Adult Programs
- Scholarships

▪ Fire Service Programs

- Everyone Goes Home®
- Local Assistance State Teams
- Vulnerability Assessment Program
- Fire Service Training
- Taking Care of Our Own®
- Behavioral Health Support
- Chief-to-Chief Network



Survivor Programs

Fire Service Survivors Network

Survivors can provide a unique kind of support to one another. Simply connecting with someone else who has lost a firefighter can offer a sense of hope and understanding.

Members of our Fire Service Survivors Network volunteer to provide peer support to newly bereaved families. The Foundation matches members of the Network with survivors who face similar circumstances.

Members of this special network of friends remind each other that they are not alone.



Survivor Programs

Grief Resources/Publications

The Journey is a bi-monthly publication for fire service survivors that focuses on issues related to loss and healing and includes the reflections and memories of survivors in their own words.

Our website, www.firehero.org, provides information on survivor issues, line-of-duty death related resources, benefits, and Foundation programs and events.

Grief brochures for survivors of fallen firefighters are provided for free. The Foundation also has a Lending Library of materials for survivors. Many of the books are written by survivors who know firsthand what it is like to lose a loved one.



Survivor Programs

Fire Service Survivors Wellness Conference

When a firefighter dies in the line of duty, his or her survivors are left with unique challenges as they begin to rebuild their lives. Fortunately, survivors of fallen firefighters have a place to go to find the support, comfort, and resources they need. They also make connections and memories that last a lifetime.

This event gives spouses, parents, children, and siblings of fallen firefighters an opportunity to attend workshops related to grief and loss, physical and emotional wellness. The focus is on action steps and daily practices that lead to increased quality of life after loss. Participants can build support with others who have experienced similar losses.



Survivor Programs



Memorial Weekend

Every October, the Foundation sponsors the official national tribute to all firefighters who died in the line of duty during the previous year. The Memorial Weekend offers private activities for survivors and co-workers, along with public ceremonies. Thousands attend the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg, Maryland.





Survivor Programs

Hal Bruno Camps for Children of Fallen Firefighters



Hal Bruno served as Chairman of the NFFF Board of Directors and was committed to helping the families of fallen firefighters. In his memory, the Foundation offers camps for ages 4-6 and 7-17 for children and stepchildren of firefighters honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

Structured camp activities give children from around the country a chance to meet others their own age with similar experiences. This interaction helps them feel less alone, talk with others who understand, and find ways to cope with their loss.

Camps provide a therapeutic component in combination with a dynamic camp setting, allowing

campers to process their grief in a fun and safe environment.

The camp is free, and the Foundation helps with travel/lodging expenses for campers and parents/guardians.



Survivor Programs

Programs for Young Adults

For a child, losing a parent changes life forever, even into adulthood. It shakes the foundation and sense of safety that every child relies on, and it changes the family structure. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has established a retreat for young adults, ages 18-24, whose firefighter parent died in the line of duty. Many did not receive counseling as children.

This retreat provides skills to deal with grief, developing increased independence, self-expression, and individual growth. Attendees have an opportunity to meet with others their age who have had similar experiences.



Survivor Programs

Colorado Outward Bound USA School

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation partners with Outward Bound USA for young adults who have lost a firefighter parent. This exciting 7-day program combines backpacking and hiking in the majestic mountains of Colorado with activities designed to encourage expression in a safe environment that helps participants find healing. It is a course that challenges them to discover their inner strength.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and Outward Bound have partnered to provide tuition for the program. Lodging costs are covered, and Foundation assists with travel.



Survivor Programs

Scholarships

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation offers financial assistance for post-secondary education and training to spouses, life partners, children and stepchildren of firefighters honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Scholarships are awarded for undergraduate, graduate studies, vocational-technical training, and certification and job training programs. They may be used at in-state, out-of-state public and private schools.

Since the program began in 1997, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and its partners have awarded over \$3,499,000 to spouses, life partners, children, and stepchildren of fallen firefighters.



Fire Service Programs

Everyone Goes Home®

The *Everyone Goes Home*® Program provides free training, resources, and programs to champion and implement the 16 *Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives*.

The 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives were jointly developed by representatives of major fire service constituencies during the 2004 Firefighter Life Safety Summit.

The goal of *Everyone Goes Home*® is to reduce the number of preventable firefighter line-of-duty deaths and injuries.



Fire Service Programs

Local Assistance State Teams (LAST)

Everything that happens immediately after a line-of-duty death effects the way the family, the department, and the community recover from the loss. The Foundation thinks the best place for a department to turn for

support is within its own state or region.

The primary objective of the Local Assistance State Teams is to provide assistance and comfort to the family and department after a line-of-duty death and to help with filing for federal, state and local benefits.





Fire Service Programs

Vulnerability Assessment Program (VAP)

Now, every department has a free online tool to help assess their risk of losing or injuring a firefighter. The Vulnerability Assessment Program looks at everything from fireground operations to daily activities in the station such as assessing station organization, resource allocation and management. It begins with the chief or other department officials answering a series of questions based on the six root causes of firefighter line-of-duty deaths and injuries. Based on those answers, the program identifies potential risks within the department or individual stations. Guidance is provided to take corrective steps to reduce those risks.

This tool can also help department leaders justify budget requests, by offering the resources needed to address identified risks.

Fire Service Programs

Fire Service Training

The Foundation offers training programs to departments to assist and to reduce risk of a fatality or serious injury, prepare for a potential LODD or serious injury, to assist firefighters with behavioral health support, and to reduce risks in the community.

Fire Hero Learning Network Online Training

The Fire Hero Learning Network serves as a central hub and allows registered users to access free, multimedia training modules that can all be done on your own time, at your convenience.

The following courses and more are available at www.fireherolearningnetwork.com:

- Courage to be Safe®
- Leadership, Accountability, Culture and Knowledge
- After Action Review
- Creating Change in the Fire Service
- Curbside Manner—Stress First Aid for the Streets
- Stress First Aid—Awareness
- Taking Care of Our Own®
- Company Officer Development



Fire Service Programs

Taking Care of Our Own®

Taking Care of Our Own® training provides senior fire officers specific information about being prepared for a line-of-duty death.

The course includes information about Public Safety Officer Benefits (PSOB) and gives guidance on the resources that should be made available when dealing with a line-of-duty death and what elements should be included when developing a LODD policy.

Each training team includes a chief, members of fallen firefighters' families, and a behavioral health professional.

Fire Service Programs

Behavioral Health Support

Recent evidence has emerged that raises questions about existing psychological support offered to firefighters. This new model is based on a consensus approach derived from the best scientific data from military medicine, community psychology, and data from over twenty years of treating firefighter/EMS personnel. The elements of the model include:

- After Action Review
- Psychological First Aid
- Trauma Screening Questionnaire
- Behavioral Health Assistance Programs
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Peer Team Training and Coordination
- Stress First Aid



Fire Service Programs

Chief-to-Chief Network

The Chief-to-Chief Network grew out of a need expressed by chiefs who had lost firefighters in the line of duty. The Foundation has established a network of senior fire officers who have one thing in common: They have all experienced the death of a firefighter in the line of duty and understand what a department goes through. Network members

share information on issues such as:

- Incident follow-up and investigations
- Support for the fallen firefighter's family and co-workers
- Funeral and memorial service arrangements
- Requests for information from media and community
- Personal feelings of loss



Fire Service Programs

Seatbelt Pledge

To help encourage more individuals and departments to use their seatbelts at all times, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has revamped the International First Responder Seatbelt Pledge website, making it easier than ever to use. You can take the pledge at www.seatbeltpledge.com.

Fire Service Cancer Alliance

In January of 2015, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation coordinated a meeting with all the fire service organizations to discuss the problem of occupational cancer in the fire service. A Steering Committee was formed and the group was designated as the Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance. The Alliance met in October 2015 to develop a plan to address the cancer issue with a common voice among the fire service organizations. Key topics for discussion included: awareness and prevention, presumptive legislation for cancer caused by firefighting, cancer research, and recognition of firefighter cancer deaths as LODDs. The Alliance will continue to be guided by its members and has asked the Foundation to carry out its mission. As a result, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation formed an affiliate organization, the First Responders Center for Excellence: Reducing Occupational Illnesses, Injuries, and Deaths.

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial

Constructed in 1981, the seven-foot stone monument features a sculpted Maltese Cross, the traditional symbol of the fire service. At the base of the monument an eternal flame symbolizes the spirit of all firefighters—past, present and future. Plaques encircling the monument list the names of the men and women of the fire service who have died in the line of duty since 1981.

Each year, America honors its fallen fire heroes during a National Memorial Service at the monument site. The ceremony includes the placing of a Presidential Wreath at the monument and dedication of a plaque honoring those who died in the line-of-duty during the previous year.

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park

Walk of Honor®

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park features a *Walk of Honor*® that connects the monument, the historic Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel, and memorial plazas. Each brick on the walkway bears a personal inscription. Separate sections in the crosswalks also recognize the Foundation's major donors. These special sections include corporations, organizations, and individuals for their support. Proceeds from the sale of these bricks help to finance construction of the Memorial Park.

Pre-1981 Section

Project Roll Call identifies and honors firefighters who died in the line of duty prior to the creation of



the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in 1981. A special section of bricks on the Walk of Honor® has been created so that departments and loved ones can remember these firefighters.

A photograph of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel, a large red brick building with a prominent steeple and a clock tower. The building features arched windows and a central entrance with a white door. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel is special to America's firefighters and our fire service survivors. A Chapel Vigil is held, during the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, so families can light a candle and place a rose in honor of their loved ones. During the holidays, the Chapel is decorated with trees bearing ornaments sent by our survivors.

The Chapel was built in 1839 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1997, it was designated as the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel and formally dedicated in 1998 in memory of Chief A. Marvin Gibbons. Chief Gibbons was instrumental in building the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. In 2006, the Chapel was restored by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the offices of the Foundation are located there.

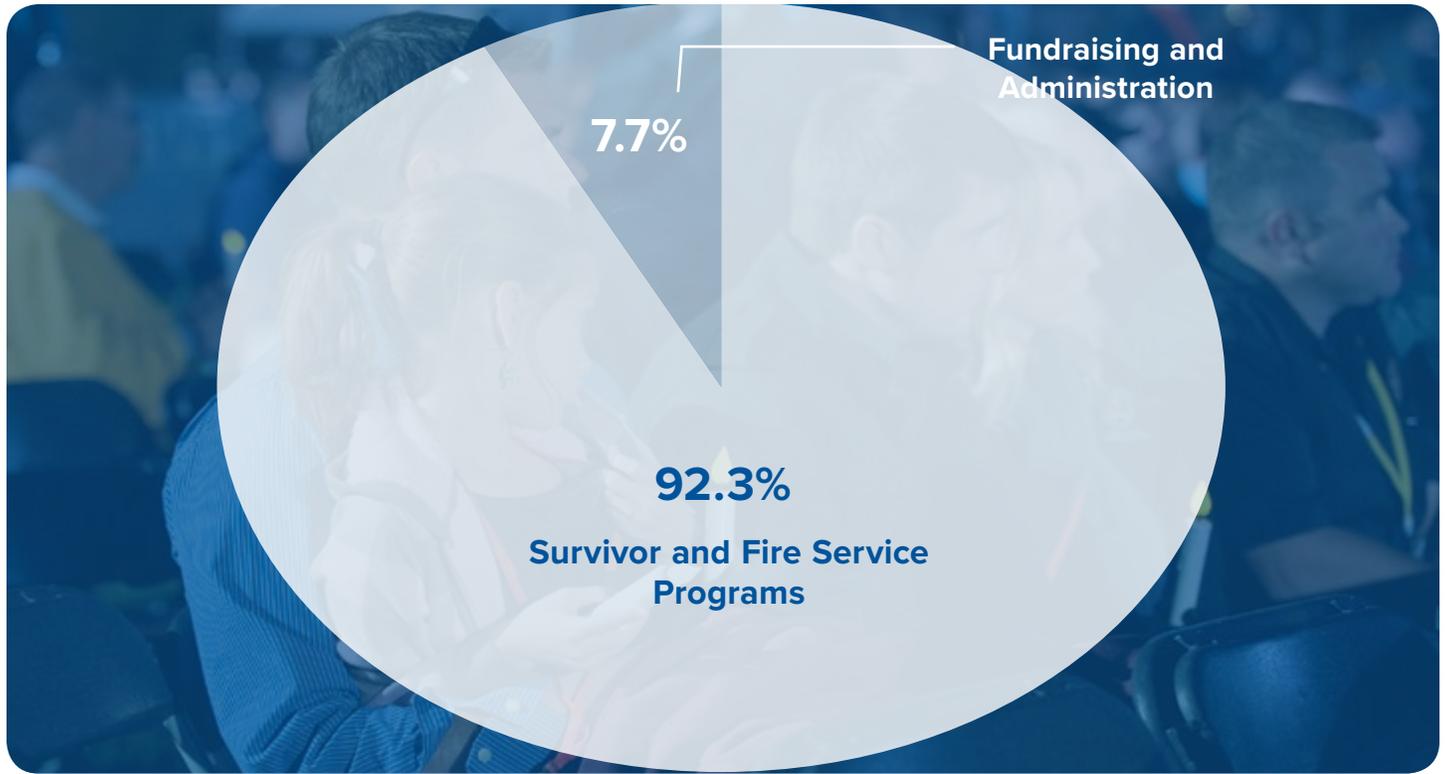
National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park

To Lift a Nation 9/11 Memorial

This 40-foot-tall bronze monument recreates the famous photo taken by Bergen Record photographer, Thomas E. Franklin, of three FDNY firefighters raising the American flag at Ground Zero. The monument stands 40 feet high, six feet deep and eight feet wide. Each of the three firefighter's statues weigh more than 5,000 pounds and were formed from approximately 160 bronze sections weighing between 60 to 80 pounds each. The monument sits beside a brick plaza that connects it to the Walk of Honor® in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park.



Program Expenditures



“Caring for the families
of those who died
in the line of duty is the
least we can do
for those who have given
so much.”

— Chief Ron Siarnicki
Executive Director NFFF

Recognizing Those Who Care for the Fire Service Family

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has established awards to honor individuals and organizations that support the mission of the Foundation and for those who show a commitment to the health and safety of firefighters throughout the country.

- **Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award**
- **Arthur J. Glatfelter Distinguished Service Award**
- **Seal of Excellence Award**



16825 South Seton Avenue • Emmitsburg, MD 21727

P.O. Drawer 498 • Emmitsburg, MD 21727

2130 Priest Bridge Drive, Suite 6, Crofton, MD 21114

www.firehero.org • firehero@firehero.org

Phone: (301) 447-1365 • Fax: (301) 447-1645