



# NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

**Phone:** 301-447-1365 **E-mail:** [FireHero@FireHero.org](mailto:FireHero@FireHero.org) **Web:** [www.FireHero.org](http://www.FireHero.org)

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Media Contact: Donna Clark 240-723-0615

## **Ten California Fallen Firefighters to be Honored at National Memorial Service on October 7**

*For live streaming information and satellite coordinates, along with video of events for downloading, go to [www.live.firehero.org](http://www.live.firehero.org)*

EMMITSBURG, MD – The U.S. Fire Service will honor ten firefighters, who died in the line of duty, from California during the 37<sup>th</sup> National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service on Sunday, October 7, 2018. They are among the 80 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2017 and 23 firefighters who died in previous years who will be remembered at the official national service at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Inmate Firefighter Frank Arturo Anaya III, age 22, of the California Department of Corrections, suffered a traumatic chainsaw injury to his leg while fighting the Lakeside Fire on July 5, 2017, and died on July 11, 2017.

Inmate Firefighter Matthew James Beck, age 26, of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, died on May 24, 2017, from injuries sustained while assisting with wildfire containment.

Battalion Chief Gary D. Helming, age 47, of the USDA Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest, died on August 31, 2017, after his vehicle was struck head-on by a truck while he was returning from assignment at the Railroad Fire.

Engineer Cory David Iverson, age 32, from CAL FIRE, died on December 14, 2017, after he became trapped by fire during the Thomas Fire near Fillmore, California.

Fire Engine Operator William A. Jaros, age 38, of the USDA Forest Service, Six Rivers National Forest, died on July 8, 2017, after becoming ill and collapsing during a required conditioning drill.

Fire Engineer Brian D. Massey, age 56, of the Kern County Fire Department, died on May 20, 2017, of a cardiac event after completing a wildland firefighting simulation training class and responding to multiple emergency calls.

Contract Firefighter Garrett Angel “Taco” Paiz, age 38, of CAL FIRE, died from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident on October 16, 2017, while driving an empty water tender to assist on the Nuns Wildfire.

Battalion Chief Terry W. Smerdel, age 59, of the San Francisco Fire Department, collapsed and died of a heart attack at the station within several hours of returning from a fire alarm call on September 10, 2017.

Firefighter Brent Michael Witham, age 29, of the USDA Forest Service, San Bernadino National Forest, was struck and killed by a falling tree while working the Lolo Peak Fire in western Montana on August 2, 2017.

Firefighter Kelly Ka Lai Wong, age 29, of the Los Angeles Fire Department died on June 5, 2017, from injuries sustained after falling from an aerial ladder during a training exercise on June 3, 2017.

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.

More than 5,000 people, including families, friends, members of Congress, Administration officials and firefighters are expected to attend on Sunday. Firefighter Honor Guards and Pipe & Drum units from across the U.S. will participate in this national remembrance.

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 [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org).