



NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

April 25, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WEEKEND WILL HONOR AND REMEMBER 226 FIREFIGHTERS *Twelve Indiana Fallen Firefighters Among Those Being Honored on May 4-5, 2024*

EMMITSBURG, Md. – The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) will host the **43rd National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend** (Memorial Weekend) on May 4-5, 2024 in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This year's national tribute will honor 89 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2023 and 137 firefighters who died in previous years. The honorees will include the following Indiana firefighters:

Firefighter/EMT Gerald Brooks, age 49, of the Indianapolis Fire Department, died on 11/2/2021 due to complications of COVID-19.

Assistant Chief Ronald Derrickson, age 58, of the Straughn Volunteer Fire Company, died on 9/15/2021 due to complications of COVID-19.

Firefighter Duane Erwin, age 78, of the Elberfeld Volunteer Fire Department, responded to a structure fire on 10/20/2021. Upon returning home, he complained of a headache which worsened over the next three hours. He was transported to the hospital where he remained until he died on 10/23/2021 due to a stroke.

Engineer Mark Gillam, age 58, of the Elwood Fire Department, died on 10/3/2021 due to complications of COVID-19.

Captain Martin "Marty" Meyers, age 50, of the Kokomo Fire Department, died on 3/4/2021 due to complications of COVID-19.

Captain Donald Neiswinger, Jr., age 50, of the Owen Valley Fire Territory, died on 1/18/2022 from complications of COVID-19.

EMMITSBURG

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Firefighter/EMT Bernard Noll, age 55, of the Southwest Allen County Fire District, died on 1/14/22 from complications of COVID-19.

Assistant Chief Kyle Osgood, age 29, of the Farmland Volunteer Fire Department, died as the result of a rollover of the tanker truck in which he was responding on 5/25/2023.

District Chief David Phelps, age 74, of the Prairieton Fire Department, died at the scene of a structure fire due to a heart attack on 11/2/23.

Firefighter Jack Ronco, age 55, of the LaCrosse Volunteer Fire Department, died on 1/07/22 due to complications of COVID-19.

Deputy Chief Joe Stucker, age 59, of the Fairland Volunteer Fire Department, died on 10/17/2021 due to complications of COVID-19.

Firefighter Bill Walters, age 88, of the Waterloo-Grant Township Volunteer Fire Department, died on 8/9/2021 due to complications of COVID-19.

Detailed information about each of the 226 firefighters being memorialized can be found on the [2024 Roll of Honor](#).

“National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend is a time for our nation to pause and reflect on the heroic efforts and selfless service of the fallen firefighters we are paying tribute to this year,” said NFFF CEO Victor Stagnaro. “We will always remember the bravery, commitment, and sacrifices of each of these 226 heroes—and their families.”

There are **two events open to the public** at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park on the grounds of the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) during Memorial Weekend.

- The **National Fallen Firefighters Candlelight Service** is on May 4 at 7:30 pm ET and will be hosted by Fire Captain Garon Mosby of the St. Louis Fire Department.
- The **National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service** is on May 5 at 10:00 am ET and will be hosted by actor Jeremy Holm.

Fire service and government leaders are scheduled to address the thousands of attendees at the Memorial Service on Sunday, May 5. The NFFF will live stream both events on the NFFF’s [website \(firehero.org\)](#), [YouTube channel](#), and [Facebook page](#).

There are additional events during Memorial Weekend provided exclusively for the families and fire departments of honored firefighters. These include small group sessions and other activities throughout Friday and Saturday; they are open to the families and coworkers of newly honored and previously honored firefighters.

Schedule

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Candlelight Service

Time: 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm ET

Streaming begins at 7:00 pm ET

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Memorial Service

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm ET

Streaming begins at 9:30 am ET

The NFFF will provide live satellite feeds of both events. Technical support is being provided by VISTA Worldlink, Comcast Beltway, and INTELSAT. Satellite coordinates can be found at live.firehero.org. Images from the 2023 Memorial Weekend are [here](#).

Location

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park
National Emergency Training Center (NETC)
16835 S. Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Media Information

Members of the media who plan to attend Memorial Weekend are asked to RSVP in advance to gain access to the NETC.

Obtain credentials here: [For the Media - National Fallen Firefighters Foundation \(firehero.org\)](http://firehero.org).

How Communities Can Participate

Those not attending Memorial Weekend in person can also **pay tribute to this year's honored firefighters**. All can participate in [Light the Night for Fallen Firefighters](#) (May 1 – 5) by lighting their homes, businesses, landmarks, or fire departments with red lights. Other ways to remember include [Bells Across America](#), [Sound the Sirens](#), and by signing a virtual [Remembrance Banner](#).

In addition, the **American flag will be lowered to half-staff on all Federal buildings on Sunday, May 5**. The public is also encouraged to lower their American flags that day to recognize the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Public Access And Parking

Public parking for Memorial Weekend is at Liberty Mountain Resort (78 Country Club Trail, Fairfield, PA). Shuttles from Liberty Mountain Resort will begin at 3:30 pm on Saturday, May 4 for the Candlelight Service and at 7:30 am on Sunday, May 5 for the Memorial Service.

Memorial Weekend is supported by individual and corporate donors, a grant from the **Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance**, and in partnership with the **U.S. Fire Administration**, a component of the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**.

Social Media: #FireHero2024 #NFFF

Website: weekend.firehero.org

LOCATION if inclement weather

PNC Stadium (ARCC)
Mount Saint Mary University
16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Media contact:

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION (NFFF)

The United States Congress created the NFFF to lead a nationwide effort to honor America's fallen firefighters. The mission is to honor America's fallen fire heroes; support their families, colleagues, and organizations; and work to reduce preventable firefighter death and injury. The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park includes the National Fallen Firefighters Monument, the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel, a brick Walk of Honor, a September 11th memorial sculpture, and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Bell of Remembrance. Information about the NFFF and the Memorial Park can be found [here](#).

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