



# 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** *Seven Maryland Fallen Firefighters Among Those Being Honored on May 4-5, 2024*

**EMMITSBURG, Md.** – The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) will host the **43<sup>rd</sup> 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 Maryland firefighters:

Firefighter Henry Eckhardt Jr., age 72, of the Reistertown Volunteer Fire Company, died on 12/5/21, due to complications of colon cancer, deemed by the State of Maryland to be a line of duty death.

Master Firefighter Mark Fisher, age 59, of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services, died on 7/24/14m from illness related to response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon.

Firefighter/EMT Bryan Hamilton, age 42, of the Naval District of Washington Fire and Emergency Services, died on 1/1/2021 due to complications of COVID-19.

Battalion Chief Christopher Morlan, age 46, of the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services, died on 12/23/2021 due to complications of COVID-19.

Firefighter/EMT Rodney Pitts, age 31, of the Baltimore City Fire Department, responded to a structure fire on 10/19/2023 for a fire that broke out in a block of two-story homes. Five firefighters were transported to the hospital after being overwhelmed by smoke and heat. Rodney Pitts was pronounced deceased on 10/19/2023 due to the injuries he sustained. Captain Dillon Rinaldo died on 10/25/2023 due to the injuries sustained. The three other hospitalized firefighters were treated and discharged from the hospital.

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#### EMMITSBURG

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Captain Dillon Rinaldo, age 26, of the Baltimore City Fire Department, responded to a structure fire on 10/19/2023 for a fire that broke out in a block of two-story homes. Five firefighters were transported to the hospital after being overwhelmed by smoke and heat. Rodney Pitts was pronounced deceased on 10/19/2023 due to the injuries he sustained. Dillon Rinaldo died on 10/24/2023 due to the injuries sustained. The three other hospitalized firefighters were treated and discharged from the hospital.

Firefighter Brice Trossbach, age 25, of the Naval District of Washington Fire and Emergency Services died on 6/27/2023 after falling from the first floor to the basement in a structure fire. He was pronounced dead at the hospital.

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 \(firehero.org\)](https://www.firehero.org/for-the-media).

### **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](https://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 11<sup>th</sup> 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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