

Helping Families and Firefighters: Our Mission-Driven Impact



NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION | 2024 IMPACT REPORT



Our mission is to honor America's fallen fire heroes; support their families, colleagues, and organizations; and work to reduce preventable firefighter death and injury.



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Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

4-Star rating from Charity Navigator and **2024 Platinum Seal of Transparency** from Candid

Our Mission: Looking Back While Facing Forward

April 2025

At the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, we strive to **meet our mission** every single day. Whether assisting a family who has experienced the **loss of a firefighter**; supporting a department where a colleague has **died in the line of duty**; or training firefighters in an effort to **prevent future tragedy**, NFFF's mission is the driving force in all we do.

The following pages offer a sampling of how we've impacted our community over these past months. The Foundation is forever grateful to—and in fact, *inspired by*—the fire hero families, fire department members, volunteers, and staff who share the commitment to the NFFF's unwavering goals. And having seen first-hand what NFFF's 24/7 effort means to our fire hero families and the fire service overall, we feel personally humbled and honored to be part of this important mission.

However, there is a literal price to be paid for this work. Despite the fact that NFFF is *mandated by Congress*, we are not included in the Federal *budget*.

We offer our **sincere thanks** to our grant funders, our public and private partners, our corporate sponsors, and our individual donor base. Through our strong **fiscal stewardship**, we accomplish so much with the funding that is entrusted to us. But with the expansion of the criteria that honors fallen firefighters to include line-of-duty cancer deaths and death by suicide, we know that the number of families and departments we serve will just continue to grow.

In the coming months, you will be hearing about a **new initiative** that will bolster our existing public/private grants and donations. The **NFFF Endowment Fund** will offer a way for monetary donations to develop into long-term financial support in perpetuity. This opportunity for an **enduring legacy** will, in turn, ensure that the legacies of our nation's fallen firefighters—and those of their families, colleagues, and the firefighters who are following in their heroic footsteps—will endure, too.

We are proud of where we've been—and even prouder of where we are going. We ask that you accompany us on this mission of hope and healing, too.

Warm regards,



A blue ink handwritten signature that reads "Troy Markel".

Troy Markel, CIC, CFM
Board Chair



Mission-Driven Impact: At a Glance

At the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, we are proud—and humbled—to have **met our mission** in 2024.

HONORING FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

With the expansion of eligibility for Public Safety Officers Benefits (PSOB), we **honored 224 fallen firefighters** in 2024.

SUPPORTING THEIR FAMILIES...

We welcomed **1,117 new Fire Hero Family members** to Memorial Weekend—the largest group that has ever attended the event in Emmitsburg. And throughout the year, we supported these new families as well as families of fallen firefighters honored in previous years via our in-person activities and virtual support and provided education scholarships to 59 children and partners of fallen firefighters.

...AND SUPPORTING THEIR COLLEAGUES

At Memorial Weekend, we offered support groups for all colleagues and leadership of the 224 fallen firefighters on 2024's Roll of Honor. Throughout the year, we provided peer support that engaged 124 fire departments. Our LAST team deployed to 142 local sites in support of departments that had suffered a line-of-duty death; we also assisted with over 200 PSOB claims per month. Our hallmark Taking Care of Our Own training engaged 766 personnel.

REDUCING PREVENTABLE LINE-OF-DUTY DEATHS

Our ongoing effort to reduce preventable line-of-duty deaths was more relevant than ever in 2024, with first responders facing catastrophic challenges like wildfires and hurricanes. NFFF's Fire Programs training events ran from January through December, reaching 421 attendees in person and 30,247 through virtual trainings.

Mission-Driven Collaboration

During the year, the Foundation also collaborated on various health and wellness initiatives; joined the U.S. Fire Administration and #FireServiceOneVoice partners in national programming and securing the reauthorization of the Fire Grants and Safety Act; and elevated the Foundation's presence through fundraising and communications efforts.

But it's our family and fire service success stories that are the true measure of our impact.

Our “mission first—people always” approach enabled us to **honor the fallen** and **support their families and colleagues**.

We will continue to be there for as long as they need us.

We Honored 224 Fallen Firefighters

On May 4 and 5, we hosted **over 1000 new family members** at the 2024 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend—the largest group that has ever attended the Emmitsburg event. We also welcomed **145 returning family members**, who shared their wisdom and experience with the newest members of the Fire Hero Family. **534 Honor Guard, Pipes & Drums** joined the team as we gathered together to honor the fallen and support their families.

“My family and I had a wonderful time this weekend. It was truly a memorable experience and we are grateful for everyone.”
 – 2024 Fire Hero Family member



ALABAMA
Jordan E. Melton
 Birmingham Fire & Rescue Service



ALABAMA
Steven M. Smith
 Pebble Volunteer Fire Department



ALABAMA
Jeffrey Ray Wyatt
 McAdory Area Fire District



ARIZONA
Tyrone E. Bell
 Verde Valley Fire District



ARIZONA
Samuel J. Criner
 Drexel Heights Fire District



CALIFORNIA
Joshua Bischof
 CAL FIRE - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CALIFORNIA
Robert G. Brantley
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



CALIFORNIA
Russell V. Fagan
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



CALIFORNIA
Brian Falk
 Kern County Fire Department



CALIFORNIA
Jacob R. Flores
 CAL FIRE - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CALIFORNIA
Joey Gandara
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



CALIFORNIA
Daniel Joseph Geary
 CAL FIRE - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CALIFORNIA
Scott Kelley Gomes
 CAL FIRE - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CALIFORNIA
William L. Knott
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



CALIFORNIA
Samuel C. Neubauer
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



CALIFORNIA
Manuel Ramos Jr.
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



CALIFORNIA
Kenneth E. Renz
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



CALIFORNIA
Timothy Rodriguez Jr.
 CAL FIRE - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CALIFORNIA
Tony Sousa
 Air Shasta Rotor & Wing, Inc., contracted by CAL FIRE



CALIFORNIA
Mark A. Tolbert
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



CALIFORNIA
Andy Valenta
 Vista Fire Department



CONNECTICUT
Anthony A. DeSimone
 North Haven Fire Department



DELAWARE
Jeremy Charles Lundgren
 Dover Air Force Base Fire and Emergency Services



DELAWARE
John Michael Pridemore
 Clayton Fire Company No. 1, Inc.



DELAWARE
Philip S. Young
 Dover Fire Department, Robbins Hose Company No. 1



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Allen L. Roush
 U.S. Air Force Fire and Emergency Services



FLORIDA
Douglas Clemons
 Polk County Fire Rescue



FLORIDA
Austin M. Duran
 Apopka Fire Department



FLORIDA
James Stuart Hunt
City of Melbourne Fire Department



FLORIDA
Terryson Jackson
Broward Sheriff's Office
Department of Fire/
Rescue



FLORIDA
Robert George Low Jr.
Greater Naples Fire Rescue
District



FLORIDA
Jeremy J. McKay
Clay County Fire Rescue



FLORIDA
Richard Brian Wolnewitz
Palm Beach Gardens Fire
Rescue



GEORGIA
Shaun Luke Daniel
Georgia Forestry
Commission



GEORGIA
Stephen Paul Richards
Georgia Forestry
Commission



GEORGIA
Matthew Brian Smith
Bartow County Fire &
Emergency Services



GEORGIA
Ryan Leonidas Taylor
City of Decatur Fire
Department



GEORGIA
Collin Veasley
Clayton County Fire &
Emergency Services



HAWAII
Tre' Evans-Dumaran
County of Maui
Department of Fire and
Public Safety



IDAHO
William "Bill" Wright
Timberlake Fire Protection
District



ILLINOIS
Bradley Liggett
City of Freeport Fire
Department



ILLINOIS
Larry Peasley
Maroa Countryside Fire
Protection District



ILLINOIS
Jermaine A. Pelt
Chicago Fire Department



ILLINOIS
Michael R. Pickering
Chicago Fire Department



ILLINOIS
Andrew "Drew" Price
Chicago Fire Department



ILLINOIS
Jan M. Tchoryk
Chicago Fire Department



ILLINOIS
Kevin P. Ward
Chicago Fire Department



INDIANA
Gerald J. A. Brooks
Indianapolis Fire Department



INDIANA
Ronald K. Derrickson
Straughn Volunteer Fire
Company



INDIANA
Duane E. Erwin
Elberfeld Volunteer Fire
Department



INDIANA
Mark B. Gillam
Elwood Fire Department



INDIANA
Martin Jay Meyers
Kokomo Fire Department



INDIANA
Donald Max Neiswinger Jr.
Owen Valley Fire
Territory



INDIANA
Bernard J. "Bernie" Noll
Southwest Allen County
Fire District



INDIANA
Kyle Thomas Osgood
Farmland Volunteer Fire
Department



INDIANA
David F. Phelps
Prairieton Fire Department



INDIANA
Jack Kelly Ronco
LaCrosse Volunteer Fire
Department



INDIANA
Joe A. Stucker Jr.
Fairland Volunteer Fire
Department



INDIANA
Bill L. Walters
Waterloo-Grant
Township Volunteer Fire
Department



IOWA
**Anthony Gerhard
"Tony" Hoffman**
Ionia Fire Department



KANSAS
Josh Bruggeman
Wichita Fire Department



KANSAS
Frank E. Enke
Girard Fire Department



KANSAS
Jason C. Garrett
Kansas City Kansas Fire
Department



KANSAS
Martin K. Smith
Montgomery County Fire
District 1





KENTUCKY
Joseph Ray Back
Whitesburg Fire Department



KENTUCKY
H. M. Bottom
City of Russell Springs Fire Department



KENTUCKY
Edwin Carter Conley
Magoffin County Rescue Squad



KENTUCKY
Regina M. Huffman
Coon Creek Fire & Rescue



KENTUCKY
Sean Kelly
Murray Fire Department



KENTUCKY
Clarence Norman Lytle
Georgetown Fire and Rescue



KENTUCKY
Brian Ray Morgan
Pleasure Ridge Park Fire Protection District



KENTUCKY
Bobby Wade Mosby
Nelson Creek Volunteer Fire Department



KENTUCKY
David C. Pawley
Louisville Fire Department



KENTUCKY
Thomas A. Petschke Jr.
Ballardsville Fire and Rescue



KENTUCKY
Ernest Ray Rudder
Bush Volunteer Fire Department



KENTUCKY
David J. Studer
Covington Fire Department



KENTUCKY
William Edward "Sonny" Thompson
Mercer Fire Protection District



LOUISIANA
Michael Allen Ford Sr.
St. Tammany Fire Protection District #1



LOUISIANA
Walker L. Hill
Baton Rouge Fire Department



LOUISIANA
Erik T.S. Kreppein
St. Tammany Fire Protection District #1



LOUISIANA
Thomas Julius Maury Jr.
Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans Fire & Emergency Services



MARYLAND
Henry W. Eckhardt Jr.
Reisterstown Volunteer Fire Company



MARYLAND
Mark R. Fisher Jr.
Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Services



MARYLAND
Bryan Paul Hamilton
Naval District Washington Fire and Emergency Services



MARYLAND
Christopher D. Morlan
Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services



MARYLAND
Rodney W. Pitts III
Baltimore City Fire Department



MARYLAND
Dillon Rinaldo
Baltimore City Fire Department



MARYLAND
Brice C. Trossbach
Naval District Washington Fire and Emergency Services



MASSACHUSETTS
Edward D. Bergdoll
Boston Fire Department



MASSACHUSETTS
Peter M. Skerry
Winchester Fire Department



MICHIGAN
Ronald Gene Cassada
Ottawa Lake Whiteford Fire Department



MICHIGAN
Ricky Albert Hill Jr.
Flint Fire Department



MICHIGAN
Ethan M. Quillen
Paw Paw Volunteer Fire Department



MISSISSIPPI
Philip Allan
Seminary Volunteer Fire Department



MISSISSIPPI
Wayne Doyle
Lowndes County Emergency Services Volunteer Fire District 3



MISSISSIPPI
Marshal "Mark" Hilley
Gulfport Fire Department



MISSISSIPPI
Clint Jacobs
Wiggins Fire Department



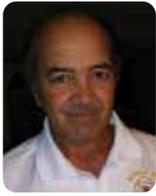
MISSISSIPPI
Kenneth Wayne Rainey
Bridgetown Fire Department



MISSISSIPPI
Guandes Deshun "Mook" Smith
Sardis Volunteer Fire Department



MISSISSIPPI
Lee Tatum Sr.
Greenleaf Volunteer Fire Department



MISSISSIPPI
Andrew Starling Whittle Sr.
 District One Volunteer Fire Department



MISSOURI
Lloyd M. Ruediger
 New Haven-Berger Fire Protection District



MISSOURI
Raymond M. Wynn
 Kansas City Missouri Fire Department



NEW JERSEY
Augusto "Augie" Acabou
 Newark Fire Department



NEW JERSEY
Wayne M. Brooks Jr.
 Newark Fire Department



NEW JERSEY
Anthony C. Duivenvoorde
 Sussex Fire Department



NEW JERSEY
Jeff M. Pfeiffer
 Deptford Fire Department



NEW JERSEY
Timothy R. Pfleger
 Keyport Fire Department



NEW JERSEY
Edward Steines
 West Milford Fire Department



NEW YORK
Thomas W. Anderson Jr.
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
Jason D. Arno
 Buffalo Fire Department



NEW YORK
Edward "Red" Corrigan
 North Patchogue Fire District



NEW YORK
Peter E. Dromms
 North Syracuse Fire Department



NEW YORK
Rebecca "Beckie" Eleczko
 Millgrove Volunteer Fire Department



NEW YORK
Dennis A. Farrell
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
Russell Feliciano
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
John P. Fogarty
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
Frederick H. Gallagher
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
Michael H. Gebert
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
Wayne T. Goehring
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
Steven H. "Bullwinkle" Harris Jr.
 Fort Johnson Volunteer Fire Company



NEW YORK
Robert J. Kelly
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
David M. Lachenauer
 City of Watertown Fire Department



NEW YORK
Leonard Llewellyn
 Mattituck Fire Department



NEW YORK
James C. Mager
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
Anthony Malfi
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
Anthony N. Mauro
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
James F. McCauley Jr.
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
Brian E. O'Flaherty
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
James T. Redmond
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
Karl J. Sederholt
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
Christopher P. Viviano
 Fire Department City of New York



NEW YORK
Patrick J. Whalen
 Fire Department City of New York



NORTH CAROLINA
Ricky D. Allen
 Conover Fire Department



NORTH CAROLINA
Eddie Dewayne Fender
 Asheville Fire Department



NORTH CAROLINA
James William Goudelock
 Town of Dallas Fire Department



NORTH CAROLINA
Jeremy Klemm
Durham Fire Department



NORTH CAROLINA
Larry J. Kye
North Carolina Forest Service



OHIO
Gregory Lee Bauer
Columbus Division of Fire



OHIO
Seamus J. Culligan
Willoughby Fire Department



OHIO
Kevin A. Dailey
Middleport Fire Department



OHIO
Charles E. Gossard Jr.
Springfield Township Fire Department



OHIO
H. Matthew Hanenkrath
South Richland Fire Department



OHIO
David Jarvis III
Columbus Division of Fire



OHIO
Edward J. Long
Portsmouth Fire Department



OHIO
Dennis Lee McCollum
Kalida Volunteer Fire Department



OHIO
Randy B. Miner
Mary Ann Township Fire Department



OHIO
Ralph A. Nunley
Bloom Township Fire Department



OHIO
Kenneth J. Pettit
Allen-Clay Joint Fire District



OHIO
Matthew A. Reid
Fletcher Volunteer Fire Department



OHIO
Charles D. Swank
Washington Township Fire Department



OHIO
James E. Tansey
Wakeman Fire District



OHIO
Sean R. Tyler
Tiffin Fire/Rescue Division



OHIO
Brett J. Wilson
Columbia Township Fire Department



OHIO
Robert L. "Bob" Wysong
Clinton-Warren Joint Fire and Rescue District



OREGON
Brian Edward Flowers
Gresham Fire Department



OREGON
Brandon Norbury
Gresham Fire Department



PENNSYLVANIA
Shawn Giles
Fuller Hose Company No. 1



PENNSYLVANIA
Timothy M. "TJ" Johnson
Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department



PENNSYLVANIA
Robert D. Klinefelter
Bauerstown Volunteer Fire Department



PENNSYLVANIA
Brian Keith Martinez
Mont Alto Volunteer Fire Department



PENNSYLVANIA
Colin A. Reedy
West Whiteland Fire Company



PENNSYLVANIA
Nicholas J. Sava
Oakmont Fire Company



RHODE ISLAND
Robert T. Gardner Jr.
Richmond-Carolina Fire District



RHODE ISLAND
James L. Varin Sr.
Providence Fire Department



SOUTH CAROLINA
Joseph Kenneth Barr
Anderson County Fire Department



SOUTH CAROLINA
Gary L. Burris II
Gaffney Fire Department



SOUTH CAROLINA
John R. Hodge
Inman Community Fire Department



SOUTH CAROLINA
James Michael Muller
Irmo Fire District



SOUTH CAROLINA
Kevin D. Simmons
City of Aiken Department of Public Safety



SOUTH DAKOTA
Fred Fedeler
Chester Volunteer Fire Department



SOUTH DAKOTA
Joshua J. Kogel
Cavour Volunteer Fire Department





TENNESSEE
Jeffrey S. Arick
Memphis Fire Department



TENNESSEE
Malcolm Wayne Arrington
Nashville Fire Department



TENNESSEE
William Michael Brooks
Nashville Fire Department



TENNESSEE
Roger Estes
South Claiborne Volunteer Fire Department



TENNESSEE
Travis Isabel
Memphis Fire Department



TENNESSEE
Richard D. Miller
Henderson County Fire Department



TENNESSEE
Jeffrey Todd Norman
Memphis Fire Department



TENNESSEE
Darin D. Pasold
Hohenwald Fire Department



TENNESSEE
Roy Lee Sewell Jr.
North Tazewell Volunteer Fire Department



TENNESSEE
Clifford Smelcer
Sunnyside Volunteer Fire Department



TENNESSEE
Julian "Skill" Wilson
Fayette County Fire Department



TEXAS
Peter S. Avila
Brownsville Fire Department



TEXAS
Evan Curtis Brown
Honey Grove Volunteer Fire Department



TEXAS
Gregory L. Cocke
Fort Worth Fire Department



TEXAS
Robert R. Cocke
Fort Worth Fire Department



TEXAS
Richard Michael Hempel
Groesbeck Fire-Rescue



TEXAS
Edward R. "Eddie" Hykel Jr.
West Volunteer Fire Department



TEXAS
John P. Norris Jr.
Forest Bend Fire Department



TEXAS
Nahit Atif Oral
Community Volunteer Fire Department



TEXAS
Joe Parish
Diboll Volunteer Fire Department



TEXAS
Brandon T. Peterson
Lancaster Fire Department



TEXAS
Keven Glen Teague
Fort Worth Fire Department



TEXAS
Malcolm Sherrod Willis
Houston Fire Department



TEXAS
Horace "Dan" Wright
Abbott Volunteer Fire Department



US VIRGIN ISLANDS
Mario "Smiley" Smith
US Virgin Islands Fire Service



UTAH
Merrill L. Bone
Unified Fire Authority



UTAH
Robin Lee Pilcher
Unified Fire Authority



VIRGINIA
Ernest Nelson "Ernie" Cash
Monelison Volunteer Fire Department



VIRGINIA
Matthew R. Chiaverotti
Virginia Beach Fire Department



VIRGINIA
Cameron Bentley Craig
Abingdon Fire Department



VIRGINIA
Mia Ethridge
Louisa County Department of Fire and EMS



VIRGINIA
James Arness Foster
Rice Volunteer Fire Department



VIRGINIA
Brian R. Hricik
Alexandria Fire Department



VIRGINIA
John Laronda
Altavista Volunteer Fire Department



VIRGINIA
Chester T. Lauck
Frederick County Fire and Rescue Department



VIRGINIA
Mark A. McCowan
Cinchco Volunteer Fire Department



VIRGINIA
Eric P. Newman
Franklin County
Public Safety



VIRGINIA
Ian Thomas Strickler
Frederick County Fire
and Rescue Department



VIRGINIA
John E. Tucker
Altavista Volunteer
Fire Department



VIRGINIA
Michael Wayne Webb
Callaway Volunteer Fire
Department



VIRGINIA
Stephen D. Whitson
Henrico County Division
of Fire



VIRGINIA
Rocky S. Wood
Virginia Department of
Forestry



WASHINGTON
**Charles Thomas
"Chad" Cate II**
Clallam County Fire
District #3



WASHINGTON
Dean Allan Crosswhite
Whatcom County Fire
District 7



WASHINGTON
Matthew D. Riggsby
City of Buckley Fire
Department



WASHINGTON
Ronald A. Roy
Wenatchee Valley Fire
Department



WASHINGTON
**Robert "Bo"
Schiemer**
Tacoma Fire Department



WASHINGTON
Michele J. Williams
Seattle Fire Department



WEST VIRGINIA
Cody John Mullens
West Virginia Division
of Forestry



WEST VIRGINIA
**Ronald Maurice
"Ron" Strosnider**
Capon Valley Volunteer
Fire Department



WISCONSIN
**Raymond Joseph
Samson**
Dale Fire Rescue



WISCONSIN
**Frank Castro
Sanchez Jr.**
Nekimi Volunteer Fire
Department



WISCONSIN
Stephen M. Smith
Vandenbroek-Kaukauna
Fire Department



WISCONSIN
Todd J. Yandre
Lake Mills Fire
Department

“Unable to attend the weekend but live streamed both sessions. It was like being there. Thank you ever so much; it was such an honor.”

– 2024 Fire Hero Family member

“Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to honoring the returning families and the new families. It is a blessing to be part of a team that shows other people that we do truly care about them and support them from here out.”

– Returning Fire Hero Family member





We Supported Families

The Family Programs resources for families are offered with the understanding that everyone's grief journey is different—and the programs that resonate with them differ, too. We provided a range of programs including in-person events, virtual support, a bi-monthly newsletter with family-created content, one-on-one counseling, and ongoing grief support. One-on-one counseling, and ongoing grief support. Our Fire Hero Family's feedback after every event is critical so we can continue to enhance our programmatic services.

Memorial Weekend is typically the first in-person introduction a Fire Hero Family has to the Foundation. With the largest-ever attendance of new families in Emmitsburg, our Family Programs team served and supported more family members than ever. The **1,117 family members** we worked with included:

- Children of firefighter: 54 minors, 168 adult
- Spouse/Life Partner: 115
- Parents: 79; Sibling: 113
- "Other" relationship (aunts, uncles, in-laws, grandparents): 588

We welcomed back **145 returning family members**, who provided a total of **726.5 volunteer hours** in support of the new Fire Hero Families.



In-Person Events:

Hal Bruno Kids Camps

- June/Bloomington, IN
- Campers: 96

Fire Hero Family Conference

- September/Mesa, AZ
- Attendees: 65

Winter Retreat

- December/ Fairfield, PA
- Attendees: 100

2024-2025 NFFF Scholarship Program

59 Recipients (47 female, 12 male)

Total awarded: \$538,893

Virtual Events:

Weekly Peer Support – 42 Sessions

8pm ET on Wednesdays
Individual participants: 48
Total sessions attended: **730**

Weekly Facilitated Support – 41 Sessions

8pm ET on Tuesdays
Individual participants: 29
Total sessions attended: **273**

Monthly Remembrance Group – 12 Sessions

3pm ET every 3rd Sunday
Participants: **61**

Men Forging Ahead – 12 Sessions

3pm on every 4th Saturday
Average monthly participants: 13
Total sessions attended: **152**

We Awarded More than a Half Million in Scholarships

The NFFF Scholarship Program awarded 59 scholarships totaling \$538,893 to family members of fallen firefighters. Recipients for the 2024/25 school year included 47 female and 12 male students. Six families accounted for 12 of the scholarships—five are sibling pairs, and one are mother and daughter. Scholarships are based on financial need and academic performance, emphasizing those studying science, technology, engineering, math (STEM), and public safety. NFFF and its scholarship partners are proud to support these families and honor the memory of fallen heroes.

The Program is made possible by generous donations from Motorola Solutions Foundation, MissionSquare Retirement, the Alan Patrick Sondej Scholarship Fund, the Kenneth M. Hedrick Memorial Scholarship Fund, Burton A. Zipser and Sandra D. Zipser Foundation, National Association of State Fire Marshals, Global Health & Safety, and Fire Engine Number 5 Charitable Foundation.



Kristen Adams
Medicine
LSU Health Shreveport



Gabriella Ambelas
Nursing
DeSales University



Lezlee Armes
Family Nurse Practitioner
Ohio University



Imani Armstrong
Music Performance
Alabama State University



Noah Baity
Pre-Nursing
Charleston Southern University



Caroline Barber
Nursing
University of Northern Florida



Olivia Barber
Environmental Studies
University of Northern Florida



Madison Barker
Chemistry/Medicine
Canisius University



Elizabeth Boatman
Music Teacher/Therapist
Glendale Community College



Marissa Brake
Studio Arts (Glass)
CSU-Chico



Miranda Brake
Medicine
Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine



Michelle Bryant
Business Administration
Southern Utah University



Owen Curry
Mechanical Engineering & Robotics
University of Central Florida



Aliza DeVoe
Social Work
West Chester University



Kensley Dickey
Business Management & Leadership
Trevecca Nazarene University



Elizabeth Dill
Nursing
Oklahoma City Community College



Emily Dill
Fashion Merchandising
University of Central Oklahoma



Gabrielle Eck
Accounting
Wichita State University



Cayla Fenwick
Veterinary Medicine
Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine



Carly Ferrugia
Law
St. John's University School of Law



Rylee Fournier
Photography & Marketing
University of La Verne



Grant "Frank" Fouts
Business
University of Iowa



Bailey Fritz
Athletic Training
Youngstown State University



Karen Fritz
Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Kent State University



Cameron Gerace
Fire Science
University of New Haven



Gracelyn Gonsioroski
Nursing
Montana State University Bozeman



Grady Gonsioroski
Mechanical Engineering
Montana Technological University



Natalie Jones
Pre-Health/Occupational Therapy
Ithaca College



Kennedy Karriem
Psychology
University of Central
Arkansas



Jackson Lukas
Political Science
Michigan State
University



Madison Manger
Chemistry: Biochemistry
St. Catherine University



Brianna Marshall
Premedical
Massachusetts College
of Pharmacy and Health
Sciences



Luke McCormick
Forest Management
North Carolina State
University



Alyssa McDuffie
Health Information
Management
Western Governors
University



Jack McNamara
Fire Science
Eastern Kentucky
University



Marty McNamara
Pre-Nursing
Quinsigamond Community
College



Allison Meehan
Business
Orange County
Community College



Amy Morrison
Dental Hygiene
The University of New
Mexico



**Isabella (Bella)
Moya**
Math
Jacksonville University



Hannah Nunley
Nursing
University of Cincinnati



Meghan Paidar
Physical Therapy
University of Wisconsin -
La Crosse



Courtney Quiroz
Clinical Psychology
Pacific University



Jostin Rasmussen
Kinesiology w/
emphasis on Physical
Therapy
Washington State
University



Ava Sanchez
Nursing
Blinn College



Marissa Sayles
Nursing
Northern Michigan
University



Deserae Schwindt
Human Resource
Development
Pittsburg State
University



Laini Scott
Criminology & Criminal
Justice w/Forensics
Investigation Minor
Arcadia University



Randi Sewell
Social Work
University of Kentucky



Lily Shaffrey
Pre-med
University of Health
Sciences and Pharmacy



Sarah Shoup
Dental Hygiene
Northeast Mississippi
Community College



Edward Singleton, II
Business Analytics
DePaul University



Mollie Skipper
Criminal Justice
University of South Dakota



**Miccael Sonner-
Cranney**
Biology
Lewis-Clark State
College



Ryenn Sovich
Psychology
Ursinus College



Kadence Stroble
Psychology
University of the
Southwest



Grace Tchoryk
Physical Therapy
Carroll University



Madison Tipton
Criminology
University of Idaho



Joe Wach
Public Accounting
Wayne State College



Matt Wach
Academic Transfer
(Undecided)
Southeast Community
College - Beatrice



◀ **NFFF
Scholarships:
How to Apply**



◀ **Learn more
about our
Scholarship
Program**

Scholarship Support: From the C-Suite—and from Individuals

Spotlight: Corporate Support that Changes Lives

In April 2005, **Motorola Inc.** and the **Motorola Foundation** jumpstarted the NFFF Sarbanes scholarship program by announcing a \$100,000 gift to the scholarship program on an annual basis. In 2010, that amount doubled to \$200,000.

In 2020, the contribution increased to \$320,000. With that contribution, the NFFF worked with Motorola Solutions Foundation (MSF) to reimagine how MSF's contributions would support the NFFF scholarship program moving forward—and the Motorola Solutions Foundation Enhanced Scholarship Initiative (ESI) was created. The ESI portion of Motorola's support awards scholarships to a recipient(s) pursuing degrees in STEM (science, technology, engineering, or math) or in Public Safety.

To date, Motorola's contributions include a **cumulative total of \$3,929,035.**

Spotlight: Supporting Students One by One

In late 2017, Dave Levy worked with the NFFF to establish the **Alan Patrick Sondej Memorial Scholarship Fund** for families of fallen firefighters. It was the first NFFF scholarship fund designated to provide scholarships that satisfy the **full four-year cost** of college tuition and books. The annual scholarship awards from this fund are available to a student(s) pursuing an education in a **STEM** field. In 2018, the first two scholarships were awarded under this program—and since its inception, the **cumulative total awarded is \$333,197.**

In late 2021, Dave once again worked with the NFFF to establish the **Kenneth M. Hedrick Memorial Scholarship Fund** for children of fallen firefighters, again designed to provide scholarships that satisfy the full four-year cost of college tuition and books. This annual scholarship is available to a student(s) pursuing an education in the field of **Public Safety**. In 2022, the first scholarship was awarded under this program; to date, the **cumulative total awarded is \$46,421.**

“The Motorola Solutions Foundation, the charitable and philanthropic arm of Motorola Solutions, is dedicated to supporting first responders—the brave individuals who serve our communities every day. The Foundation prioritizes programs that foster mental wellness, enhance school safety, and develop leadership skills.

Our commitment also extends to honoring the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, including providing vital scholarships for families of fallen first responders. That's why we proudly support the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, whose scholarship mission directly aligns with our dedication to these families.”

– Karem Pérez, Executive Director
Motorola Solutions Foundation





Receiving this scholarship [will] allow me to focus on my final year of grad school, including the two semesters of internship that I will be completing at a Community Behavioral Health Center. Thank you to the donors for being such wonderful people who ‘see’ our families.

– Recipient Karen Fritz, mother of Bailey

Receiving this scholarship will allow me to obtain my master’s degree in athletic training. This scholarship will assist me by allowing me not to have to take out any loans and will allow me to have a small margin of debt after college. Thank you to the donors for making my career dreams possible by allowing me to complete undergrad with no debt and providing me the college experience for me that without their generosity, I wouldn’t be able to accomplish.

– Recipient Bailey Fritz, daughter of Karen

Through the generous contributions of the NFFF and the scholarship donors, I won’t have to worry about working as much so I can continue to focus primarily on my studies and research position. Without your help, I would have struggled significantly to make ends meet.

– Son of a fallen firefighter

The financial burden of attending medical school can be daunting and most students are forced to take out significant loans in order to pay for their education, leaving them with a staggering amount of debt. Thanks to the Alan P. Sondej Scholarship, I am fortunate enough to focus on my education without worry about the financial burden allowing me to fully immerse myself in my studies and pursue my passion for medicine.

– Daughter of a fallen firefighter

Receiving this scholarship will allow me to complete my goal of going back to school to obtain my master’s degree with a Family Nurse Practitioner license. Obtaining this degree will allow me to provide a better life for my family.

– Spouse of a fallen firefighter



We Sent Kids to Camp

In the spring, the NFFF sent children of fallen firefighters to camp. With two age levels (ages 4-6 and ages 7-17), our **Kids Camps** offered the healing chance to just “be kids.”

For the older group, NFFF partnered with **Comfort Zone Camp** to provide a weekend-long experience. Campers were paired one-on-one with Big Buddies—many of whom were firefighters.

Camp HAL (Healing After Loss) for the younger group was led by licensed therapists who specialize in working with young children who are grieving. With support from NFFF staff and volunteers, the program used play therapy to help children express themselves in their natural language. Children stayed with their parent overnight.



“It felt so good being in the same atmosphere with other families who knows what it feels like to lose someone so close and have to restructure your life.”

– parent of camper



“I had so much fun at camp that I

didn’t want to leave. My dad died 13 years ago. I love camp and the friends I have made there.” – camper

“This camp provides parents and children the opportunity to step through hard things.” – parent of camper



Spotlight: From Camper to Big Buddy

“Words can’t fully capture how extraordinary this weekend was as it was truly a full circle moment. I attended this camp as a camper for years starting in 2012. After aging out of the program, I always said I would come back one day to become a Big Buddy and mentor to a young child who is grieving the loss of their father. I am so honored to have witnessed the vulnerability and resilience of these campers and how much growth they made in a weekend. This camp will always be special to me.” – Ryan Woitalewicz, Fire Hero Family member

Ryan Woitalewicz attended NFFF’s very first Kids Camp in 2012 and aged out after graduating from high school in 2017. He received five NFFF Scholarships between 2017 – 2021 and obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. He is now a Fifth Grade Teacher.

We Launched the Family Conference

When a first responder dies in the line of duty, life changes forever for loved ones left behind. For adult family members of firefighters who have been honored at the **National Fallen Firefighters Memorial**, the Fire Hero Family Conference provided a place to go to find support and comfort, make new friends, and create new memories.



At the inaugural Conference, 66 spouses, parents, siblings, and adult children of fallen firefighters attended workshops on a variety of topics related to grief, wellness, self-care, and practical skills. Bonding with others that have experienced a similar loss fostered the building of lasting and supportive friendships.

We Welcomed Families During the Holidays

For Fire Hero Family members who have lost a firefighter in the line of duty, the holidays can be an especially challenging time of year.

The annual **Fire Hero Family Winter Retreat** welcomed family members of all ages and focused on service, self-care, reflection, and fellowship. Fire Hero Families enjoyed time connecting with each other for support — and attended the annual **Tree Lighting** at Memorial Chapel in Emmitsburg, where trees are adorned with ornaments representing every firefighter who has been honored at the Memorial.

“The Winter Retreat is what my heart needed. Getting to meet people who truly understand my grief has been a life saver.”

– Winter Retreat attendee

“I’m so happy to be back with my NFFF family. I was in a huge funk and I’m so much more optimistic. The overall conference was excellent and the NFFF staff was phenomenal.” – Spouse of a fallen firefighter

“It is so heartwarming to be there (Men Forging Ahead) and watch people regroup and forge on.” – Son of a fallen firefighter

“Always deeply grateful for all provided for us by NFFF. The understanding, acceptance, provided time for letting go”...“Feel accepted and talk openly”... “New friendships made and shared time with these we have come to call family.” – Adult family members of fallen firefighters

“I am so thankful for the men’s group. These guys help make the harder days more manageable.” – Father of a fallen firefighter





We Assisted and Trained Fire Departments

The Fire Programs team's work spans the entire country. Comprehensive efforts support the leadership and colleagues of fallen firefighters through on-the-ground assistance immediately after loss, assistance with PSOB, and liaising with families. Mission-driven training efforts work to keep firefighters safe in the field to reduce preventable loss.

LODD Outreach and Research Group

"Taking Care Of Our Own"

26 Classes/FEMA Regions 1 through 10
Personnel trained: 766

Local Assistance State Team Program

- Firefighter: 83 fatalities tracked – LAST assisted in 92%
- EMS: Assisted with 27 fatalities
- Law Enforcement: Assisted with 32 fatalities
- PSOB Claim Assistance: 207/month (Staff 25; LAST teams 182)

Presentations/Classes

LAST Classes (9)

Participants: 205

PSOB Workshops (6)

Participants: 441

"Handling a Line of Duty Death" Presentations (5)

Participants: 224

Uniformed Peer Support Program

Outreach: 124 fire departments Peer Support Requests: 32

- Chief-to-Chief: 25
 - IC-to-IC: 4
 - CO-to-CO: 3
- Activities:
- March Virtual Meeting
 - May Group Support (at Memorial Weekend): Chief, IC, CO, Colleague
 - September in-person (Charlotte, NC) – 20 participants

NFFF Advocates attended **64 national, state and regional trade shows** and events across 22 states during the year.

As the Vulnerability Assessment Program (VAP) undergoes an update for 2025, 30 new departments signed up in 2024.

Fire Hero Learning Network (online)

- 4 new modules launched
- Learning activity increased by 7.5%
- Classroom delivery hours increased by 15.8%

Total trainings: 30,247

Training Events

Fire safety grants from the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** fund critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel, enhance efficiencies, and support community resilience. NFFF's careful stewardship of the grant dollars we receive supports our ongoing efforts to reduce preventable line-of-duty deaths.

Regional Advocate Meeting (FDSOA)

January/Phoenix • Attendance: 18

New Horizons (WUI)

February and June 2024/Utah Valley
Attendance: 34

Leadership Lessons from LODD Experience

March/North Beach, MD • Attendance: 48

Leadership Management Conference

March/Prescott, AZ • Attendance: 31

Fellows Meeting at CFSI/Region 5

April/Washington DC • Attendance: 19

Lessons from West Texas: Training and Staff Ride

June/Waco, TX • Attendance: 18

High School Fire & EMS Cadet Program Symposium

July/Detroit, MI • Attendance: 89

20th Anniversary Firefighter Life Safety Summit

August/St. Louis, MO • Attendance: 164

Total in-person training attendees: 421

We Made Prevention a Top Priority

20th Anniversary Firefighter Life Safety Summit St. Louis, MO – 164 attendees

2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the pivotal fire service gathering that launched the **16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives** (16FLSIs). These foundational initiatives laid the groundwork and became cornerstones of safety training throughout the United States fire service. The initiatives have served—directly and indirectly—as the catalyst to a wide range of safety improvements across the fire service.

The 2024 Summit maintained a laser focus on the quest to reduce preventable line-of-duty deaths by examining the continued impact of the 16 FLSIs as written, considering the need to streamline them in recognition of what has been accomplished, and exploring how to be responsive to today's firefighters *and* tomorrow's leaders. The emphasis was to draw as many firefighters with 15 years or less, as they would be charged with implementation of the outcomes.

Chief Dennis Jenkerson and the members of the St. Louis Fire Department co-hosted the gathering, which was dedicated to **fallen St. Louis firefighter Benjamin Polson**. Firefighter Polson, a second-generation firefighter, was killed in the line of duty in 2022 fighting a fire in a structure later determined to be vacant.

Fellows Meeting CFSI – Washington DC – 19 State Leads

The State Leads from Region 5 met to discuss the objectives of the EGH Strategic Plan. Each state was invited to outline the support needed to meet objectives of the Advocate program successfully. To foster the training of rising leadership, State Leads who attended were required to bring their successor with them; successors could be from within the advanced group or outside.

NFFF Fellows Program: Lessons from West Texas Waco Emergency Services Education Center – 17 Fellows

The NFFF Fellow Development and Staff Ride, West TX, built on academic instruction provided to the Fellows during the CFSI 34th Annual Dinner and Symposium. The 2-day facilitated workshop provided a case study of the **2013 West Fertilizer Plant Explosion**, which resulted in **15 fatalities and approximately 200 injuries**; survivor and witness accounts' facilitated discussion; and a staff ride to significant sites and the West Memorial.

Discussions focused on the aftermath—including hypotheticals on what changes to the regulatory process could prevent or reduce the impact of future events—and application of communication tools already learned. The Texas State Fire Marshal's Report was used as a reference and advance study guide.

New Horizons – Two Parts Orem, UT – 34 Wildland Firefighters

An increasing number of firefighters are facing fire operations in the “wildand-urban interface”: areas that were once pure wildland but where homes are now being built. Recent calamities in Lahaina (HI), Greenville (CA), and Paradise (CA) illustrate the immense destruction that can result from fighting fires that present two different conditions. In fact, firefighters at these incidents reported being overwhelmed by the size, speed, and destruction of each fire.

New Horizons took place at the **Utah Valley Fire Rescue Academy** and focused on orienting “new” firefighters (federal world) to the world of “other” firefighters. The course discussed the roles of USFA, DHS, and the NFPA standards and showcased NFFF tools available through its **Taking Care of Our Own** (TCOOO) program, **Local Assistance State Teams** (LAST), and other training and education programs designed to enhance teamwork and incident orientation and included an NFFF “After-Action Review” class.

High School Fire & EMS Cadet Program Symposium Detroit, MI – 89 attendees

Dating back to 2019, this annual series brought together stakeholders from 22 states and the District of Columbia for two days of learning. Attendees networked face-to-face with learning professionals, subject matter experts, and leaders of successful programs. 100% of attendees agreed that the symposium provided them with tools, resources, and best practices to use in their current program; a networking opportunity that enabled them to meet and interact with their peers; and that they planned to continue engagement with fellow attendees to share ideas and best practices.

A sample of topics: Fire Service Culture and what it means to cadets; mental health considerations; reflecting societal demographics in today's fire service; strategies to reduce bullying; and an intro to NFFF's vast training resources.

Leadership Management Conference Prescott, AZ – 31 fire service leaders

The Conference took place at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Prescott Campus, not far from the location of the devastating Yarnell Fire in 2013 where 19 Granite Mountain Hotshots were lost. The agenda included a full day of leadership deliveries from the NFFF's expanded programs, including Crew Resource Management, Attributes of Leading, Stress First Aid, and a primer on Day 2's memorable staff ride.

The following day's staff ride to the site of the **Yarnell Tragedy** followed the proven staff model that consists of three distinct phases: preliminary study of the Incident; an extensive visit to the actual site; and the opportunity for the group to integrate the lessons derived from the study and visit. In this way, the historic Yarnell event helped leaders learn from the past through both systematic study and the actual terrain.

Leadership Lessons from LODD Experience North Beach, MD – 48 firefighters

This one-day seminar was made possible by a grant from BGE/Exelon and included two line-of-duty death case studies delivered by chief officers who functioned as the senior officer on scene or incident commander.

It recounted the events, remembered the sacrifice of the firefighters who died, and discussed the impact the deaths had on the department members—including the speakers. What's more, it aimed at providing a strategy to prevent similar occurrences in other departments.

Fire Hero Learning Network Online – 30,247 trainings

The FHLN continued to grow its user base with a 7.5% increase in learning activity and 15.8% growth in classroom delivery hours. In addition, four new FHLN models were launched.

The Network's definitive impact was evident, with 14,967 users confirming "Improved Knowledge on Handling an Incident or Topic." Another 4,711 indicated that the training led to informal changes in specific practices, with many users confirming that it generated a revision to an existing Department SOP (2,489 users) and even generated a new Department SOP (2,068 users).

Expanding on the valuable story recounted in the Boyd Street Fire video production—which by 2024 had garnered a million and a half views on YouTube—the NFFF Fire Hero Learning Network launched its first **Interactive Case Story**, showcasing the events surrounding and the lessons learned from the 327 E. Boyd Street Fire that sent eleven LAFD firefighters to the hospital—some with life-altering injuries. The Case Story is one all fire departments can relate to—and learn from.



◀ Explore the Fire Hero Learning Network



Spotlight: The Impact of Training

“The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) training programs have profoundly and professionally impacted me, reinforcing my commitment to firefighter safety, leadership, and resilience. I have had the privilege of delivering Attributes of Leading, Stress First Aid, and Leadership Accountability Culture and Knowledge, (LACK) as it is often referred to.

I have witnessed firsthand how they transform department cultures, strengthen leadership, and enhance operational safety. The NFFF’s powerful message of honoring the fallen through action resonates deeply with me, driving my passion to equip firefighters with the tools they need to prevent future tragedies. By fostering open conversations about safety, behavioral health, and leadership, these trainings empower firefighters to create lasting change, ensuring that every firefighter goes home safely at the end of each shift.” ~ Battalion Chief David Santos

David Santos is the Battalion Chief of Training for the City of Colton, CA. Fire Department, a 50-member organization operating out of 4 fire stations. CFD protects a population of approximately 60,000 people. Chief Santos has been with the CFD for 24 years.

“I believe [NFFF’s training] will open [attendees’] eyes to things that they take for granted every day. Until you call someone’s attention to something they are doing wrong or careless, oftentimes they don’t realize it has become a habit.” – Leadership Everyone Goes Home attendee

“The course was spectacular and provided extremely beneficial information regarding the benefits for LODDs along with the complete process from notification of family to caring for the families and departments involved. Though we have established protocols within our department, it was helpful to be reminded that the final wishes packets and information should be updated frequently.”

– Taking Care of Our Own attendee



“Excellent class which allowed for all levels of firefighters to provide their perspective to leadership.”

– Attributes of Leading attendee



“This was a great collaboration of thoughts and experiences from across the country. I learned a great deal and will implement and strive to better my department’s relationship with our local federal resources by training together and working together.”

– New Horizons, Fire in the WUI attendee



“It was a great experience. I was able to bring it back to my department...which opened a discussion on future practices.” – West (TX) Staff Ride attendee

“The [Fire and Rescue Safety In Training] program was excellent and eye-opening about how personal attitude affects those around me...In the future, I will change my delivery of stories involving dangerous acts to be cautionary tales instead of bragging.” – FHLN student

“In October of 2024, Perryton Assistant Chief Scott Glass was killed when a vehicle ran over a supply line, popping a coupling, causing three firefighters to fall. Our team deployed a Response Commander to support the Perryton fire chief during the planning of the funeral. We also deployed several honor guard commanders to help train the department’s members on funeral and honor guard protocol. Working remotely, we also provided communications support and assisted with writing press releases and handling media inquiries. A logistics coordinator provided coordination of resources that the department needed for casket watch, backfill for Perryton, and equipment for the funeral.

Since Chief Glass’s death, the Texas Line of Duty Death Task Force continues to provide support services for the agency and the family: referrals for mental health services, family care from our Family Care Team, and filing both State and National LODD benefits. We will continue to provide these services for as long as they need the help.”

– Wendy Norris, Texas LAST



We Climbed and Golfed to Honor the Fallen

2024 NFFF 9/11 Memorial Stair Climbs

NFFF's 9/11 Memorial Stair Climbs included 13,402 in-person climbers and 1,094 virtual climbers, for a total of **14,496** participants at 44 events. The 9/11 Memorial Stair Climbs are a way to honor and remember the firefighters who died on

September 11, 2001. Donations raised by participants and sponsors support the programs of the NFFF and the FDNY Counseling Service Unit. Stair climb participants climb the equivalent of the 100 stories of the World Trade Center wearing an honorary badge of an FDNY firefighter who died on 9/11 or in subsequent years due to a 9/11-related illness.

Together, the NFFF's 9/11 Memorial Stair Climbs **raised \$1,585,645** to support the ongoing programming of the Foundation.



850 Heroes 4 Heroes 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Lambeau Field
Altoona Curve 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Baltimore 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Binghamton Fire 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Bishop 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Bisman 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Black Hawk 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Central Kansas 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and 5K Walk
Charlotte 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Cincinnati 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Cintas Virtual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Colorado 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Columbus 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Crosby VFD 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Denver 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Dickinson 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Fayetteville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
FDIC 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Four Corners 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Gaithersburg 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Georgia 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Grand Rapids 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Greenville City 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Knoxville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Lancaster 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
LION Gem City 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Morongo Reservation FD 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Nashville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
National Capital Region 9/11 Stair Climb and 5K Walk
Nebraska 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
New Hampshire 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
New York City 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
NYS AFC FIRE 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Ocean City 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Philadelphia 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Roanoke 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Rochester 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb, Walk and Bike Ride
Salt River Firefighters 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Southeast Texas 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Tri-Cities 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Union City Fire Department 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Discovery Park of America
VCOS 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and Walk
Wiregrass 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb



“Doing the Stair Climb is the least we can do to thank the guys who gave all. We stand on their shoulders.”

“You get here and everyone stands around at the stage and...it’s like you’re back there.”

“He gave everything on that day for people he never even knew. So for the families and for all the fellow brothers out there—it’s the least we can do.”

2024 NFFF Memorial Golf Tournaments

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Golf Tournaments raise awareness and help sustain the programs of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. In 2024, there were 10 golf tournaments with 1,246 participants, raising \$341,803 to support NFFF’s initiatives.

5th Annual Metro Atlanta Firefighter Classic

9th Annual Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen’s Association Golf Tournament

10th Annual Greater Pittsburgh NFFF Memorial Golf Tournament

11th Annual Protectowire Annual Golf Open

15th Annual Geneva National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament

17th Annual Central Ohio Fallen Firefighters Annual Golf Tournament

17th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament hosted by Raleigh Fire Department

Annual Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association Golf Tournament

NFFF Charity Golf Outing presented by SERVPRO Quad Cities, Kewanee, Burlington

NFFF Golf Tournament hosted by Genesis Construction Group

Utah Annual National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament



We Collaborated with our Generous Sponsors

Sporting Events

Families and friends of the NFFF gathered at ballparks and arenas across the country to show support and raise money.

- January 16, 2024 - **Washington Capitals'** First Responders Appreciation Night
- March 10, 2024 - Battle of the Bureaus (**Monroe County Fire Hockey Team vs. the City of Rochester Fire Department**)
- May 10, 2024 - National Fallen Firefighters Foundation at **Fenway!**
- May 18 – 19, 2024 - 2024 Firefighter Memorial Baseball and Basketball Event (ASE)
- August 11, 2024 - **Seattle Mariners** Firefighter Appreciation Day
- August 23, 2024: #2 Whelen Chevrolet at **NASCAR Xfinity Series**, Daytona International Speedway
- September 8, 2024 - **Miami Marlins** First Responders Appreciation Day
- September 13, 2024 - **Colorado Rockies** First Responder Appreciation Night
- September 11 – 13, 2024 - **Pittsburgh Pirates** First Responders Night
- November 1, 2024 - **Portland Trail Blazers** First Responder Night
- December 19, 2024 - **Washington Wizards** First Responders Night



Giving Circle

Becoming a member of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation’s Giving Circle is a powerful commitment to honoring the courage and sacrifice of our nation’s fallen heroes. Supporters who join this distinguished group help sustain vital programs that provide emotional and financial support to the families of fallen firefighters, ensure they are never forgotten, and promote firefighter safety to prevent future tragedies.

By stepping into the Giving Circle, you become a meaningful contributor to honoring our fallen heroes and helping carry the mission of the NFFF forward.



◀ Learn more about this prestigious group

Planned Giving Campaign - Securing the Future of Our Heroes

In 2024, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation proudly launched its Planned Giving Campaign, “NFFF Planned Giving: A Lasting Legacy”— a forward-thinking initiative aimed at ensuring long-term support for the families of fallen firefighters and our ongoing work to enhance firefighter safety and wellness. This campaign invites individuals and families to make a lasting impact by contributing estate gifts that provide critical resources for the Foundation’s mission for years to come. This campaign is for everyone, including those with a modest income.

By including the Foundation in your estate planning, you can leave a legacy of support for the heroes who selflessly serve our communities. Your contributions will help us continue to honor, support, and advocate for fallen firefighters — ensuring their sacrifice is remembered and their families receive the support they deserve.

The Foundation is grateful for the generosity of all who have made this vision a reality. We remain committed to stewarding these gifts with the utmost care and respect.

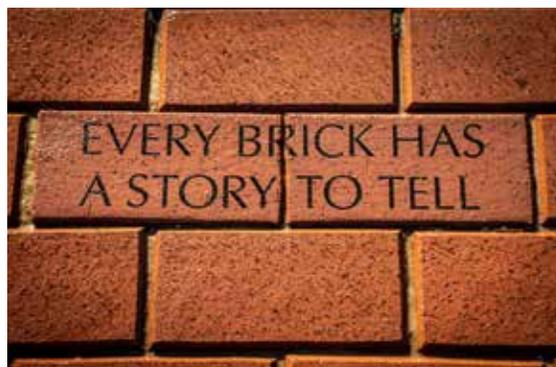
To learn more about estate planning, please visit firehero.planmylegacy.org.

“Walking” our Mission

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park in Emmitsburg, Maryland, is a place of great reverence to honor our nation’s fallen heroes. In addition to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial and the To Lift a Nation 9/11 Memorial, another ever-present and living tribute is the **Walk of Honor**®.

Bricks on the Walk of Honor can be purchased to celebrate a variety of occasions, including recruit graduations, promotions, retirements, or to honor the memory of a fallen firefighter. Each engraved brick becomes a permanent part of Memorial Park, symbolizing a lifelong commitment to service and community.

Proceeds from the brick sales support the NFFF’s mission to honor America’s fallen firefighters and provide support to their families. Bricks can be ordered directly through the NFFF website, where customization options and donation details are available.



We Shared Our Mission Across the Fire Service

Throughout the year, the Foundation partnered with the U.S. Fire Administration to promote firefighter safety and fire prevention for communities across the United States—and around the world.

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Congressional Flag Presentation Ceremony

On April 10, 2024, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), in cooperation with the **Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI)** and the **Congressional Fire Services Caucus**, conducted the 12th Annual Congressional Flag Presentation Ceremony. Members of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, including Senator Jon Tester (MT), Past-Chair of the Fire Caucus; Senator Susan Collins (ME), Co-Chair; and Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD-5), Co-Chair, delivered remarks and presented 224 American flags that had been flown over the Capitol Building to the NFFF.

The members of Congress were joined by Victor Stagnaro, CEO of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation; Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, U.S. Fire Administrator, and Deputy Chief Kenneth Moore of the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department. Bill Webb, Vice-Chair of the NFFF Board of Directors and Executive Director of the Congressional Fire Services Institute, served as the Master of Ceremonies.

The flags were presented to Fire Hero Families at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service held on Sunday, May 5, 2024, in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

U.S. Fire Administrator's Summit on Fire Prevention and Control

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) partnered with the United States Fire Administration (USFA) to host the third annual U.S. Fire Administrator's Summit on Fire Prevention and Control. Held on October 8, 2024, on the campus of the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD, the Summit was attended by fire service leaders from across the country, as well as viewed online.

Members of the Biden Administration heard testimony from national fire service leaders on climate change, building codes, recruitment and retention, firefighter health and safety, EMS, and the new national fire data platform NERIS.

The Summit also featured a series of "State of Science" presentations focused on Structure Fire Impact and Resilience, Science to the Station, Climate Driven Data and Technology, and the USFA Wildfire Evacuation Project.



#Fire Service One Voice: Fire Stop Tour

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) joined the United States Fire Administration (USFA) and several of our national fire partners in USFA's second annual Fire Stop Tour. The tour, which visited fire departments in Detroit, MI, Chicago, IL, and Columbus, OH, highlighted the continued fire problem in the nation, as well as winter weather preparedness.

NFFF was joined on the tour by representatives from the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the

International Association of Fire Fighters (NFFF), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), and UL's Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI).

Legislative Activities

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), in partnership with many of the national fire service organizations, successfully advocated for federal legislation benefiting America's fire service and promoting firefighter health and safety.

On July 9th, President Biden signed into law the **Fire Grants and Safety Act** (PL 118-67). The legislation reauthorized the United States Fire Administration (USFA), the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program through Fiscal Year 2028. The grant programs were facing a statutory sunset of October 1, 2024, meaning if Congress had failed to act, these programs would be lost forever. The passage of this legislation is the culmination of more than two years of work by nearly 40 national fire service organizations and countless individuals, including NFFF Advocates, Fellows, LAST team members, and Fire Hero Family Members, who reached out to Congress to advocate for these programs.

On December 12, 2024, President Biden signed into law the **Firefighter Cancer Registry Reauthorization Act** (PL 118-147). The legislation reauthorized the National Firefighter Registry for Cancer through Fiscal Year 2028. The bill was originally introduced by the late Congressman Bill Pascrell of New Jersey, a longtime co-chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and a staunch supporter of the nation's fire service.



World Fire Congress

On May 7th & 8th, 2024, the United States Fire Administration (USFA) hosted the Inaugural World Fire Congress in Washington, DC. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) provided planning, administrative, and logistical support to USFA for the event.

This historic meeting saw representatives from 56 nations united for the first time to address the challenges facing the fire services worldwide. The World Fire Congress was established to foster international cooperation and understanding among fire service leaders, recognizing the common challenges.



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Chairman of the Board



Bill Webb
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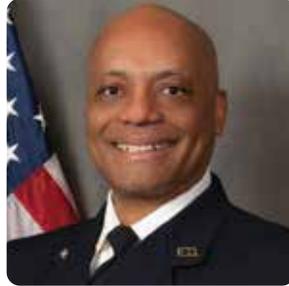
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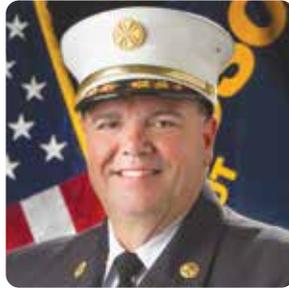
Victor Stagnaro
National Fallen
Firefighters Foundation
Chief Executive Officer

The NFFF Board of Directors includes leaders from the private sector, fire service, Fire Hero Families, and government—all of whom share a strong interest in fire safety. Advisory Committee members lend specialized expertise and support to the Foundation’s programs. The Board establishes Foundation priorities and oversees the National Fallen Firefighters Scholarship Programs, Memorial Park, the annual Memorial Weekend, and the wide variety of programs for the families and colleagues of fallen firefighters.

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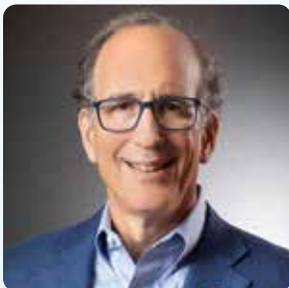
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“I support the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation because their mission is deeply personal and profoundly impactful. NFFF not only honors those we’ve lost, but leads the charge in preventing future tragedy. Their national leadership has shaped how we think, train, and care for our fire service—helping ensure that more firefighters go home at the end of every shift.” – Dr. Sara Jahnke

Partners and Donors

Our sincere thanks to our partners and donors for their generosity in supporting the mission to honor America's fallen firefighters, assist their families, and prevent firefighter injury and fatality. Contributions to the NFFF include cash donations, event and conference sponsorships, royalties through our affinity programs, proceeds from affiliate collaborations, in-kind donations, and bricks on the NFFF Walk of Honor®.

“At Turtle Plastics, our mission has always been rooted in safety, sustainability, and service. Supporting the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is a natural extension of our values—honoring those who’ve made the ultimate sacrifice and helping prevent future loss through training, awareness, and resilience-building. It’s our way of standing beside the fire service community that stands up for all of us.”

– Liz D. Paintiff, President of Turtle Plastics

With Gratitude to our Federal Partners for their Continuing Support

**Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
Fire Prevention & Safety Grant**
Department of Homeland Security

Bureau of Justice Assistance
Department of Justice

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Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Fire Administration
Department of Homeland Security

OUR PARTNERS COUNCIL

The NFFF recognizes the vital role of our corporate partners in sustaining and advancing our mission. These valued collaborators provide critical support in many forms: through direct financial contributions, in-kind donations, and by opening pathways to new funding opportunities.

Each corporate partner brings unique strengths, resources, and expertise, helping to ensure the Foundation's long-term fiscal health *and* helping to amplify our message. Their generosity and commitment enable us to honor America's fallen firefighters, support their families, and strengthen the fire service community nationwide.

We are grateful for their ongoing partnership and shared dedication to our mission.

Jason Cannon
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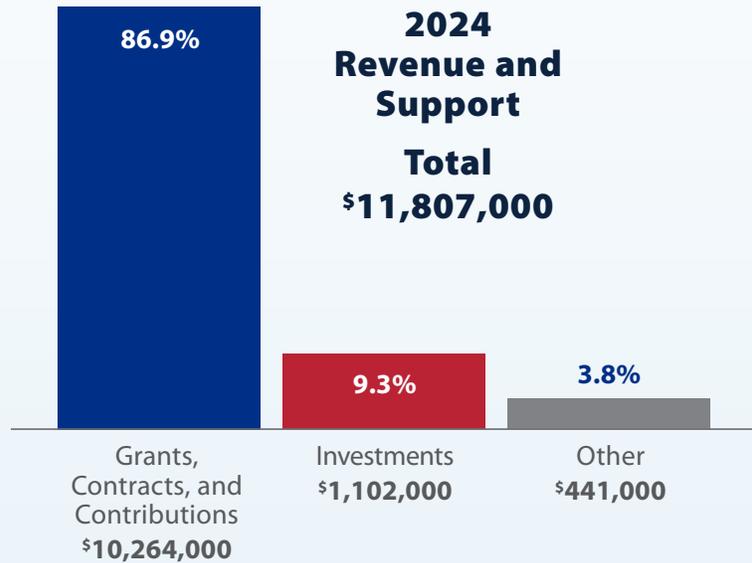
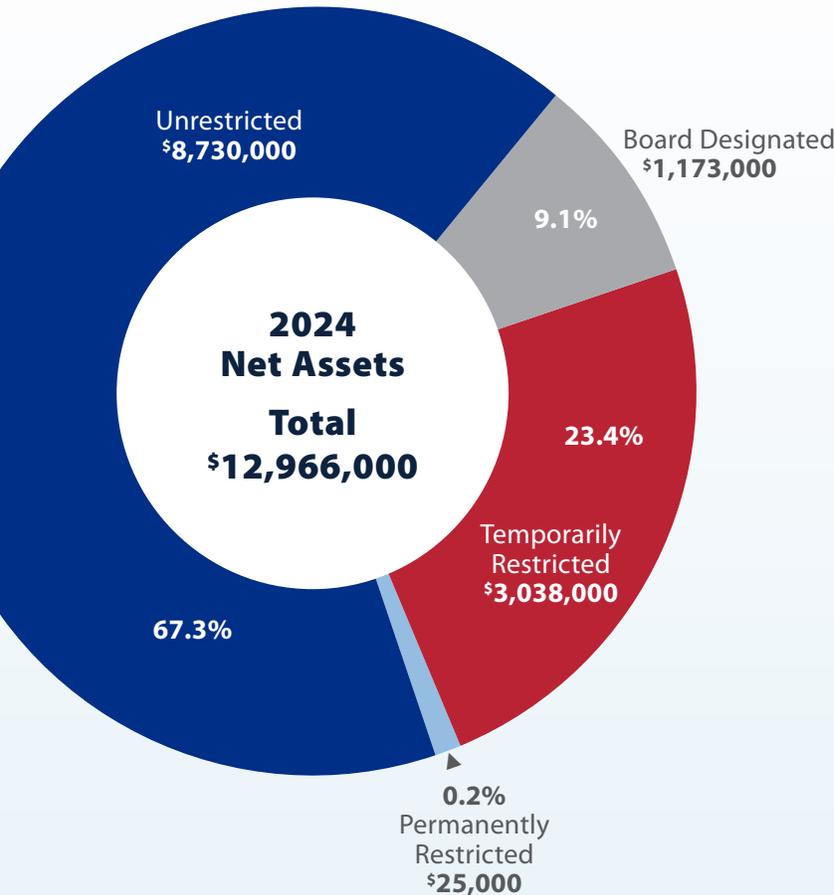
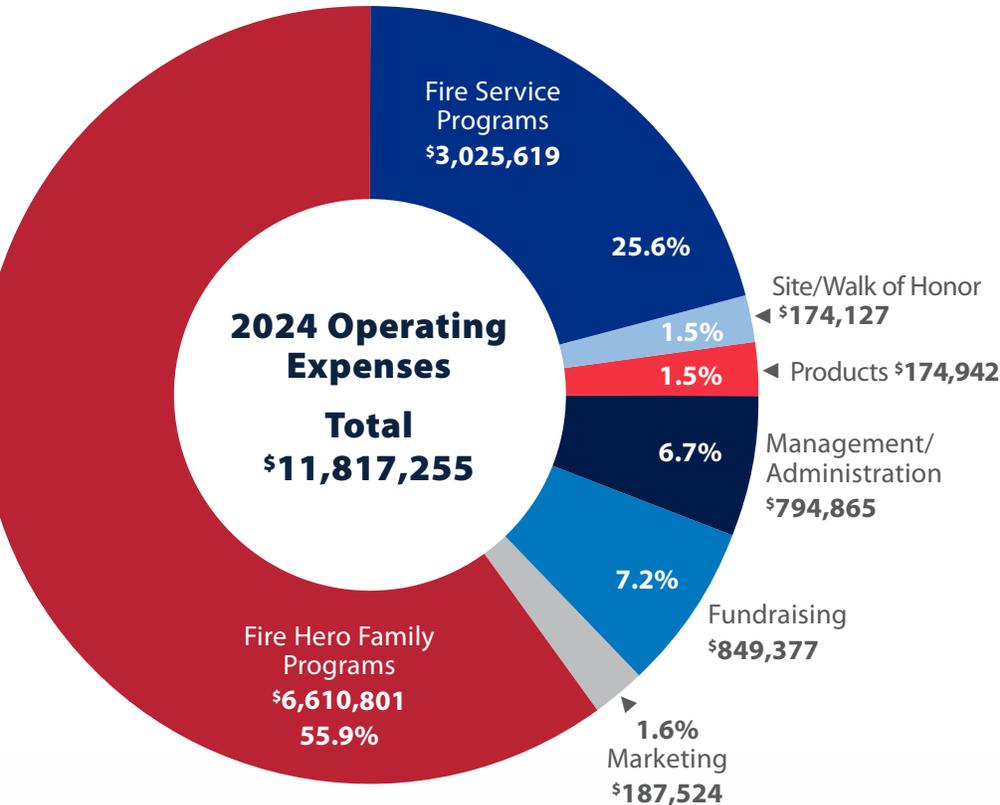
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*Denotes NFFF Giving Circle members

Financial Stewardship



“Each decision we make is guided by the principle of being good stewards of every dollar at our disposal. That also means keeping a laser-sharp focus on meeting our mission of supporting Fire Hero Families, aiding colleagues of the fallen, and training the fire service to reduce preventable loss.

In 2024, we honored 224 fallen firefighters – the most ever memorialized at Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg. We hosted more families than ever before: over 1,000 onsite. Our fundraising efforts yielded higher results than in 2023, which bolstered our ability to provide resources and targeted programming for the fire service and our Fire Hero Families all year long. We also secured a sizable new contract with USFA to broaden our efforts of prevention.

I’m proud to say that in 2024, over 80% of our budget supported our Fire Hero Family and Fire Service Programs. Maximizing the funds we have available to meet our mission is—and always will be—our single most important task.”

— Victor Stagnaro

Reflecting on the Past Year—and Looking Ahead

This past year, a powerful and humbling moment for me occurred during the **National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service**, where we honored **224 fallen firefighters**. The inclement weather forced the ceremony to move indoors—but an amazing group of people worked behind the scenes to make the transition seamless. The tribute remained heartfelt, dignified, and deeply meaningful and was a fitting reminder that rain or shine, we will *always* stand together to honor the courage and sacrifice of our fallen heroes.

Throughout the year, I found myself deeply moved on more than one occasion. Attending our **Hal Bruno Kids Camps** and watching these young people laugh, bond, and grow together was nothing short of inspiring. In the face of unimaginable loss, they've found strength in each other. It was a privilege to be there to see them offer support, share stories, and learn to create space for joy and healing.

The **Fire Hero Family Conference in Mesa, Arizona** was another profound gathering. Being with families from all over the country—each carrying their own stories of sacrifice—reminded me that while loss may be deeply personal, healing can be beautifully communal. We found comfort in shared memories, strength in shared purpose, and it was genuinely inspirational.

And later in the year, the **Winter Retreat and Tree Lighting Ceremony** offered a time for peaceful reflection. There is something so comforting about standing among families under the glowing trees lit in honor of those we've lost—another powerful reminder that their light continues to shine in our hearts.

This year also brought growth and vision through the **Firefighter Life Safety Summit**. The collaborations and commitments made there reinforced the importance of continual progress. It was a moment to look both backward and forward—to honor those we've lost while fighting to ensure fewer names are added to the list.

Looking ahead, the NFFF is deeply honored to take part in a special memorial in **New York City**, where we will pay tribute to **176 firefighters who died as a result of their work in the rescue and recovery efforts following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks**. This solemn occasion will honor their extraordinary sacrifice and serve as a powerful reminder of the long-lasting impact of 9/11. It will be a moment to stand together in reflection, in remembrance, and in gratitude for their bravery and selflessness.

With every event, handshake, tear, and story shared this past year, one truth remains clear: though our heroes may be gone, their spirit lives on—in every life they touched, and in every heart that remembers.

Here's to continuing the mission, walking alongside these incredible families, and never letting the flame of remembrance go out.



Victor Stagnaro
Chief Executive Officer



◀ I invite you to join us here



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