

*Twenty-second Annual
Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial
and
Firefighter Medal of Honor Awards
Ceremony*



*May 12, 2015
Beginning at 10:00 a.m. on the State Capitol Lawn
Southwest Corner on Statue Row
Continuing in the Prairie Capital Convention Center
Springfield, Illinois*

Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony Program

Presentation of Colors..... Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard

Invocation Father John Ouper, Oswego Fire Protection District

Remarks..... Bruce Rauner, Governor

Processional to PCCC..... Led by Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard



Illinois Firefighter Memorial



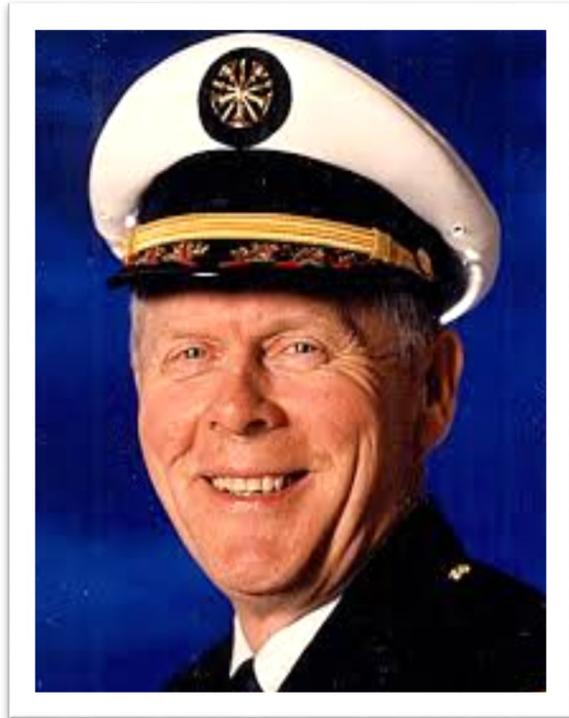
*“Dedicated to
the firefighters of Illinois
who have given their lives
in the line of duty
and to those
who heroically serve
with courage, pride
and honor.”*

In Loving Memory of Nick B. Pistello



Nick retired from the Chicago Fire Department after 33 years of dedicated service. He served as Business Agent for 18 years with CFD Union Local #2. Nick was appointed to the Medal of Honor Committee by the Governor of Illinois after being recommended by the State Fire Marshal.

*In Loving Memory of
Thomas L. Armstead*



Tom began his fire service career with the Springfield Fire Department and was a member of the AFFI Local #37. After 28 years with the Springfield Fire Department, he retired as Chief. Tom served as the Illinois State Fire Marshal from 1991 to 2001. He was the first Fire Marshal appointed to the Medal of Honor Committee. Tom was the founder of the Illinois State Fire Museum located on the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

*As we remember our fallen firefighters in the past,
we are fortunate for no line of duty deaths during the
year 2014.*



Illinois Firefighting Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony Program

Posting of Colors Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard
Introductions.....Foundation Director, Chief James M. Grady III, Frankfort FPD
Testimonial.....Garrett Reveal, Scholarship Recipient
Remarks..... Evelyn Sanguinetti, Lieutenant Governor
Leslie Munger, Comptroller
Fallen Firefighter Bell CeremonyAFFI Honor Guard
Jeff Bruno, AFFI Honor Guard State Commander, Kankakee FD
Jay Coburn, AFFI Honor Guard Deputy State Commander, Matteson FD
Curt Moffitt, AFFI Honor Guard Deputy State Commander, Springfield FD

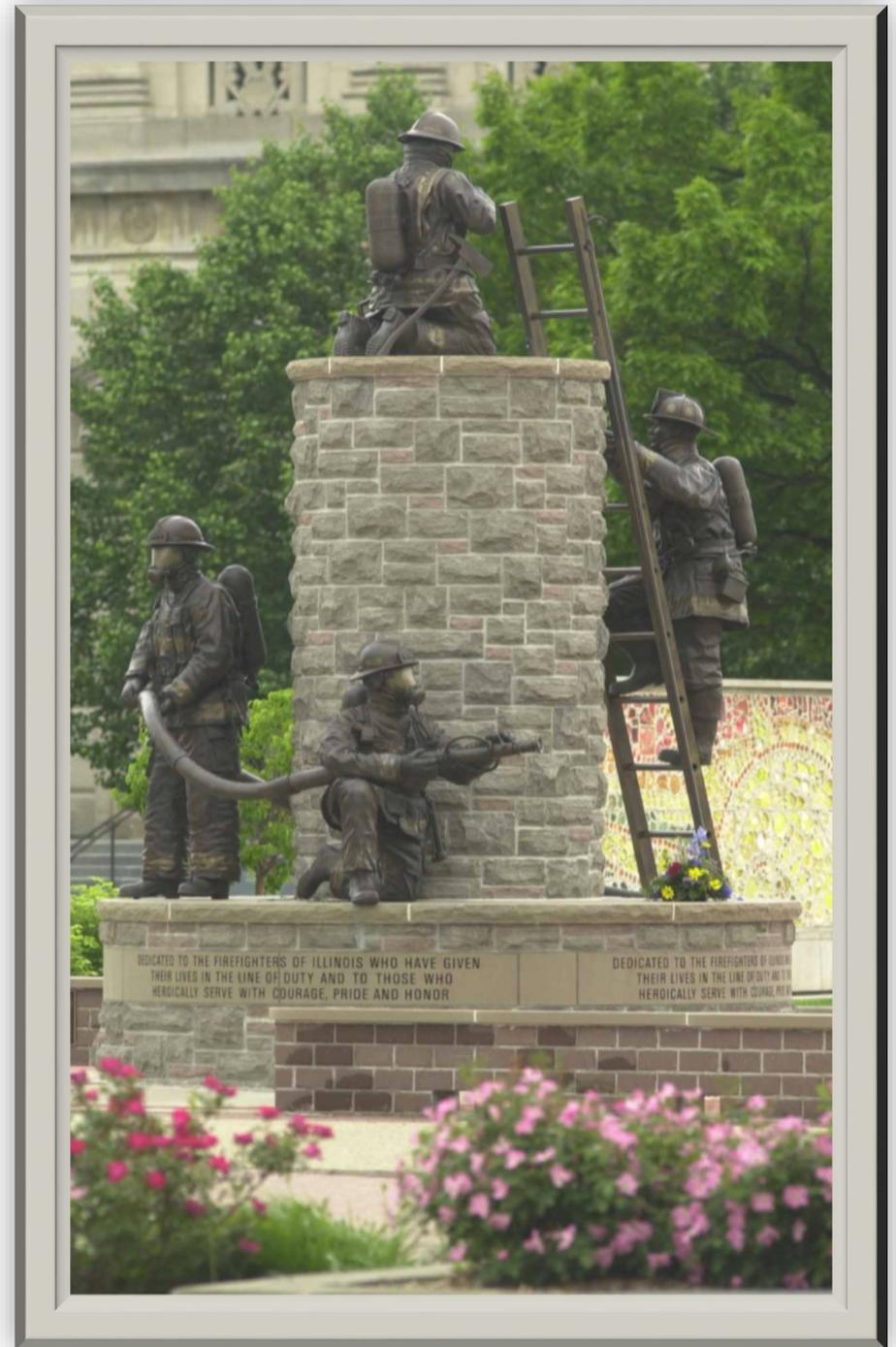


Certificate of Recognition Award

The Certificate of Recognition acknowledges those nominated for their dedication to the principles and traditions of the fire service, to the state and the community, with honor and integrity.

Recipients

Firefighter Chris Frawley, Collinsville Fire Department
Firefighter Mike Harris, Collinsville Fire Department
Lieutenant Eric Schrage, Collinsville Fire Department



Dedicated to the Firefighters of Illinois

In 1993 the Illinois Fire Services Association unanimously agreed that a monument should be erected to serve as the official memorial; it was to be located on the grounds adjacent to the state Capitol building. The Memorial would be viewed by thousands of visitors year 'round. The Firefighter Medal of Honor Committee, appointed by the Governor, assumed the responsibility of bringing the Memorial to reality.

Working with the Secretary of State's office, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and a nationally recognized sculptor, the committee developed a design concept to transform the site into a Memorial in which the fire service of Illinois would be proud. The Illinois Firefighter Memorial is dedicated to the firefighters of Illinois, who have given their lives in the line of duty and to those firefighters who heroically serve with courage, pride and honor.

The artist was commissioned to design and construct an original bronze work of art consisting of four life-size figures of firefighters in full gear, a child, a ladder and hose. Each adult figure is approximately 6' 2" tall if in a standing position and represents the firefighters in full protective clothing, in action.

The art was created through the "lost wax" method of bronze casting and is finished in an antique bronze fire-on patina suitable for exterior exhibition, signed and dated by the artist. The figures are situated on a cairn 14 feet high consisting of Renaissance stone. There are 2,400 red paver bricks which are enclosed by a 2 foot wall with capstones engraved with contributor's names.

It is here, at the Illinois Firefighter Memorial, that we honor those who have made the supreme sacrifice.



Firefighter Excellence Award

The Firefighter Excellence Award is awarded for an act of service in the line of duty, demonstrating excellence and professionalism in service to the citizens of the State of Illinois.

Recipients

Firefighter/EMT John McClement, Blue Island Fire Department
Lieutenant Joseph Olson, Blue Island Fire Department
Fire Chief Jeffery Kraft, Calumet Park Fire Department

Incident # 14-323-2084, Engine Company 93:
Firefighter James Danaher, Chicago Fire Department
Firefighter/EMT Stephen Grandberry, Chicago Fire Department
Firefighter/Paramedic Christian Howe, Chicago Fire Department
Engineer Lloyd Leftridge, Chicago Fire Department
Lieutenant/EMT Michael Rogers, Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter Kurt Litteken, Collinsville Fire Department
Firefighter Steve Reed, Collinsville Fire Department

Firefighter Steven Peters, Quincy Fire Department
Firefighter Jamie Pieper, Quincy Fire Department
Firefighter Nathan Pool, Quincy Fire Department
Captain Bernard Vahlkamp, Quincy Fire Department

Incident # 13-2533, Tinley Park Fire Department:
Firefighter Mike Kushner, Tinley Park Fire Department
Firefighter John Nagle, Tinley Park Fire Department
Engineer Patrick O'Dwyer, Tinley Park Fire Department
Lieutenant Todd Swartzentruber, Tinley Park Fire Department



Medal of Valor Award

The Medal of Valor award is given by the state of Illinois to a firefighter for an act of heroism or bravery that clearly demonstrated courage and dedication in the face of danger while in the performance of duty.

Stories Read by.....Chief Rick Welle, Edwardsville FD, FFMOH Committee Member

Recipients

Paramedic Field Chief Mitchell Bartecki, Chicago Fire Department
Fire Paramedic Brian Byrnes, Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter Patrick Burns, Chicago Fire Department

Fire Paramedic Tomasz Oszkinis, Chicago Fire Department
Ambulance Commander Jason Raymond, Chicago Fire Department

Paramedic in Charge Timothy Rottman, Chicago Fire Department
Paramedic in Charge Christopher Soda, Chicago Fire Department

Lieutenant/Paramedic Joseph Solcani, Chicago Fire Department
Lieutenant/Paramedic Mark Cavaletti, Chicago Fire Department
Firefighter/EMT Michael Rowan, Chicago Fire Department
Firefighter/EMT Steven Ruebe, Chicago Fire Department

Medal of Honor Award

The Medal of Honor is the highest award given by the state of Illinois to a firefighter for an act of outstanding bravery or heroism, by which the firefighter has demonstrated in great degree the characteristics of selflessness and personal courage above and beyond the call of duty, under adverse conditions, with the possibility of extreme personal risk.

Recipients

Firefighter Thomas Garswick, Chicago Fire Department
Firefighter Jason Lach, Chicago Fire Department

Lieutenant John Gricus, Chicago Fire Department

Captain Michael Scarnavack, Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter Christopher Guare, Glen Ellyn Volunteer Fire Company

Firefighter/Paramedic Benjamin Bezaire, Naperville Fire Department
Firefighter/Paramedic William Kostelny, Naperville Fire Department

Musical Montage

Retire ColorsAssociated Fire Fighters of Illinois

A lunch buffet will immediately follow the Awards Ceremony