

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



*May 10, 2016
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*

*Twenty-third Annual
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..... Michael Frerichs, Treasurer
Bruce Rauner, Governor



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.”*

*Illinois Fallen Firefighter
and
Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony Program*

Posting of ColorsAssociated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard
Introductions.....Medal of Honor Chairman, Retired FF/PM Timothy Clemens, Wilmette FD
Remarks.....Evelyn Sanguinetti, Lieutenant Governor
Jesse White, Secretary of State
Leslie Geissler-Munger, Comptroller
Fallen Firefighter Bell Ceremony.....AFFI 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



Duty Death Gold Badge Award

Presented by.....Matt Perez, State Fire Marshal

The Duty Death Gold Badge is an award of Honor given to the family of a firefighter deceased in, or as a result of, the performance of duty.

Honorees

Firefighter/Paramedic Daniel V. Capuano, Chicago Fire Department
Firefighter/Paramedic Fidel G. Serrano Jr., Chicago Fire Department (2012)
Firefighter/Paramedic Mark A. Zielinski, Sr., Matteson Fire Department
Chief Kenneth J. Lehr, Medora Fire Protection District

Echo Taps

Performed by.....Kirsten Clemens
Ben King

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

Fire Paramedic Mark Madonia, Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter/EMT Aaron Omaye, Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter/EMT David Pae, Chicago Fire Department

Ambulance Commander Jennifer Schulz, Chicago Fire Department

Lieutenant Christopher Serb, Chicago Fire Department



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 Cesar Arroyo, Chicago Fire Department

Paramedic Field Chief Deborah Sommer, Chicago Fire Department

Fire Paramedic Wendell Smoot, Chicago Fire Department

Captain/EMT Michael Spencer, Chicago Fire Department

Paramedic in Charge Joseph Summers, Chicago Fire Department

Incident # 15-325-1128-00, Engine Company 98:

Lieutenant Michael Balnis, Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter/EMT Jason Faber, Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter/Paramedic Gloria Kehoe, Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter/EMT Anthony Owens, Chicago Fire Department

Engineer/EMT Casstedaro Simpson, Chicago Fire Department

Incident # 15-325-1128-00, Truck Company 3:

Firefighter/EMT Braulio Aguayo, Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter/EMT Michael Cannon, Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter Robert Fitzpatrick, Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter/EMT Greg Ogorkowski, Chicago Fire Department

Lieutenant Peter Vassios, Orland Fire Protection District

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

Battalion Chief James Jablonowski, Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter Joseph Martinelli, Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter Lyndon Perzee, Marion Fire Department

Firefighter Chad Schmid, Marion 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

Deputy District Chief Ronald Dorneker, Chicago Fire Department

Lieutenant/EMT Lee Sullivan, Chicago Fire Department

Deputy Chief Trevor Herrmann, Hampshire Fire Protection District

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.



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