



NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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National Memorial Service to Honor West Virginia Fallen Firefighter

EMMITSBURG, MD. – The 30th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service will honor a West Virginia firefighter who died in the line of duty in 2010. He is among the 72 firefighters who died in 2010 and 17 firefighters who died in previous years who will be remembered at the official national service held at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Firefighter Donald “Donnie” Adkins III, age 32, of the Glasgow Volunteer Fire Department died after his boat struck submerged material and capsized while performing water rescues during flooding conditions on March 13, 2010.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and the Department of Homeland Security will sponsor the official national tribute on October 16, 2011.

As first responders to all natural and manmade emergencies, fire service personnel are in constant danger. During 2010, 72 firefighters died in the line of duty, making firefighting one of the nation’s most dangerous occupations.

More than 6,000 people, including Members of Congress, Administration officials and other dignitaries, members of the fire service, and families and friends of the fallen firefighters will attend the event. Families will receive flags flown over the U. S. Capitol and the National Memorial. Members of the fire service, honor guard units and pipe and drum units from across the U.S. will participate in this national tribute.

Many fire departments across the country will also conduct simultaneous services, lower flags to half-staff, sound sirens, and observe a moment of silent tribute. For the first time in Memorial Weekend history, departments and local places of worship are invited to participate in *Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters*, a national moment of remembrance, to honor those who died in the line of duty. For more information on *Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters* visit: www.BellsAcrossAmerica.com.

For a complete list of fallen firefighters being honored and a widget to display their information on your website, along with Memorial Weekend related videos, photos, media and broadcast information visit Weekend.FireHero.org.

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About the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF)

The United States Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to lead a nationwide effort to remember America's fallen firefighters. Since 1992, the nonprofit Foundation has developed and expanded programs to honor fallen fire heroes and assist their families and coworkers. For more information on the Foundation and its programs contact us at 301-447-1365 or visit www.FireHero.org.

We encourage your news organization to come to Emmitsburg to cover the Memorial Weekend events. For those who can't make it, NFFF has multiple options for you to receive video from the weekend events. There are live satellite feeds of both the Candlelight Service on Saturday and the Memorial Service on Sunday that can also be streamed on your website. [Click here for details](#).

NFFF will, in some cases, be able to provide interviews and b-roll with the survivors of fallen firefighters. You can receive the video either via satellite or through an FTP site. The availability is completely dependent upon survivors volunteering to participate.

If your news organization is interested in receiving this material or attending the services please contact Dave Statter at dstatter@firehero.org to make arrangements.