



NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

Phone: 301-447-1365 E-mail: FireHero@FireHero.org Web: www.FireHero.org

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service to Honor Seven Fallen California Firefighters

EMMITSBURG, MD. – The 28th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service will honor six California firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2008. They will be among the 98 men and 5 women from 36 states remembered at the official national service held at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg. One California firefighter and eighteen firefighters from other states who died in previous years will also be honored.

Captain Vance Tomaselli, age 60, of the San Bernardino County Fire Department died on February 22, 2008 from a Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA) that occurred while responding to an incident on February 16, 2008.

Firefighter Brent Lovrien, age 35, of the Los Angeles City Fire Department died after being struck by debris while investigating smoke in a commercial structure with two other explosions on March 26, 2008.

Firefighter Kevin Pryor, age 31, of the Newport Beach Fire Department died of a brain hemorrhage within 24 hours of responding to a wildland fire on June 17, 2008.

Firefighter Robert Roland, age 63, of the Anderson Valley Volunteer Fire Department died on July 3, 2008 after suffering a heart attack on the scene of the wildland fire on July 2, 2009.

Pilot James Ramage, age 63, of the U.S. Forest Service died in a helicopter crash at the Iron Complex Fire on August 5, 2008.

Heavy Fire Equipment Operator Curtis Hillman, Sr., age 76, of TNT Construction (U.S. Forest Service Contractor) died on September 11, 2008 as a result of a head injury sustained while operating heavy equipment at the Siskiyou and Blue 2 Complex fires on August 25, 2008.

Engineer Kirk Bowdrige, age 59, of the Big Bear City Fire Department died after suffering a heart attack within 24 hours of multiple EMS calls on January 2, 2005.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and the Department of Homeland Security will sponsor the official national tribute on October 4, 2009. This ceremony marks the beginning of National Fire Prevention Week designated by President Obama to focus national attention on the destruction of property and loss of life caused by fire.

As first responders to all natural and manmade emergencies, fire service personnel are in constant danger. During 2008, 103 firefighters died in the line of duty, making firefighting one of the nation's most dangerous occupations.

More than 5,000 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 receive flags flown over the U. S. Capitol and the National Memorial. Honor guard units and fire service personnel from across the U.S. will participate in the National Tribute.

Many fire departments across the country will conduct simultaneous services, lower flags to half-staff, sound sirens at noon, and observe a moment of silent tribute.

For more information, visit Weekend.FireHero.org. The website includes a complete list of this year's honored fallen firefighters, a video introduction to the Memorial weekend, images of previous memorial services, satellite coordinates for broadcast, and more.

About the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF)

The United States Congress created the NFFF 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.