



NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service to Honor Five Fallen Illinois Firefighters

EMMITSBURG, MD. – The 28th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service will honor four Illinois 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 Illinois firefighter and eighteen firefighters from other states who died in previous years will also be honored.

Fire Chief Matthew Hubly, age 43, of the Kankakee Township Fire Protection District died of a heart attack while performing a walk-thru/pre-plan for an industrial structure on February 7, 2008.

Deputy Chief Lee Grubor, age 42, of the Lewistown Fire Protection District died after collapsing within 24 hours of a structure fire response on March 22, 2008.

Firefighter Brian Munz, age 24, of the Fairbury Fire Department died after becoming trapped in the basement following floor collapse at a residential structure fire on July 22, 2008.

Firefighter William Miller, age 24, of the Blue Mound Volunteer Fire Department died in an apparatus rollover accident during water supply training on October 13, 2008.

Firefighter Bruce Spaulding, age 49, of the Bourbonnais Fire Protection District died of a traumatic injury sustained during performance of non-emergency fire department duties on April 26, 2003.

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 further 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.