



NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service to Honor Three Fallen Louisiana Firefighters

EMMITSBURG, MD. – The 28th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service will honor three Louisiana 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. Nineteen firefighters who died in previous years will also be honored.

Firefighter Eric Speed, age 33, of the Caddo Parish Fire District 2 died from trauma sustained in an apparatus rollover accident while responding to a mutual aid structure fire on March 28, 2008.

Firefighter Riley Terrabonne, age 29, of the Springfield Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department died on April 21, 2008 after being struck by a vehicle at the scene of an accident on April 20, 2008.

District Chief James Gonzales, Sr., age 46, of the St. Bernard Parish Fire District died after suffering a heart attack within 24 hours of multiple incidents on May 29, 2008.

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.