



NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service to Honor Seven Fallen Missouri Firefighters

EMMITSBURG, MD. – The 28th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service will honor seven Missouri 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/Paramedic Louis Berra, age 49, of the West County EMS & Fire Protection District died of a heart attack on January 18, 2008 within 24 hours of department physical fitness training.

Firefighter/First Responder Tyler Casey, age 21, of the Seneca Area Fire Protection District died from traumatic injuries sustained while evacuating residents during a tornado on May 12, 2008.

Firefighter Terrance Crockett, age 48, of the Kansas City Fire Department died of a heart attack while operating at a residential structure fire on March 17, 2008.

Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Hummert, age 22, of the Maplewood Fire Department died after being shot on the scene of a robbery stand-off with vehicle fire on July 21, 2008.

Firefighter Rick Morris, age 54, of the Sedalia Fire Department died on April 17, 2008 after succumbing to injuries sustained at residential structure fire on April 8, 2008.

Captain Leonard Riggins, age 52, of the St. Louis Fire Department died after being shot while rendering aid at the scene of a motor vehicle accident that was part of a car-jacking on November 5, 2008.

Lieutenant Clarence Watson II, age 35, of the Hematite Fire Protection District died of a heart attack within 24 hours of responding to multiple incidents on November 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 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.