

David Paulison Administrator, FEMA

Remarks Honoring Our Fallen Firefighters

Emmitsburg, MD
Sunday, October 8, 2008

During this memorial weekend, we light candles and place flowers to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect their families, their neighbors and their communities. We hear the bells ring and the pipes play, we lay wreaths, we pay our respects, we stand guard, we cry, and we vow to remember.

As a former firefighter, fire chief, USFA Administrator and, now, as FEMA's Administrator, I will always remember. This memorial demonstrates the resolve of our nation to never forget.

I offer my gratitude to the members of the National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, who show their commitment through their efforts here today and every day serving the families of those we remember. I'd also like to thank Chief Cade and his team at the U.S. Fire Administration for their work every day on behalf of the fire services community.

There was a time in our history when firefighter deaths were considered inevitable, a part of the job: when tragedies like the one in South Carolina that we remember today were shrugged aside instead of the focus of national mourning. Thankfully, today these tragedies are fewer, but the pain is no less deep. Today we know that training and equipment, when matched with the courage of individuals, can reduce risks and bring more of our men and women home each night. I look forward to the day when we cease to lose our bravest and brightest and can instead say proudly: *Everyone Goes Home*.

But when we reach that day, we will be by standing on the shoulders of giants. There are more than 3,200 names on the roll of honor here. The 110 men and women from across the nation that we add to the memorial today leave some big boots to fill. Their lives and sacrifices will be honored not only by this memorial, but by the work we will continue to do to reduce such tragedies in the future.

The firefighters' memorial is not just here in Maryland. Each of us takes it home with us. In the memories we share. In the lives they fought to protect. In our hearts. In the legacy of heroism and dedication they leave behind. As Benjamin Disraeli once said, "The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example."

They have truly left us with a noble legacy. The work of the USFA and the Memorial Foundation build on this legacy. We are all dedicated to keeping these memories alive. Families and friends kneel to take rubbings of the plaques where the names are inscribed and the bricks laid in their honor. Children come to remember fathers and mothers taken from them. Parents come to remember their children. Friends come to remember friends. Others come to pay tribute to those they knew and those they will never know.

These memories, and the lives they inspire, are the true memorial to our fallen heroes. Let us all resolve to build on their legacy as we move forward together.

God bless you. God bless all those who serve. And God Bless the United States of America.

**2008 Memorial Weekend
Roll of Honor**

Alabama

*Dennis Cheshire, Red Oak Area Volunteer Fire Department
Samuel W. Downing, Mobile Fire-Rescue Department
Billy A. Gafford, Jr., Birmingham Fire & Rescue Services
Stephen M. Harbison, Pleasant Grove Fire Department*

Arizona

Mark Stevens Carter, Phoenix Fire Department

Arkansas

*Paul D. Baker, Turtle Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Daryl W. Mutton, North Pulaski Fire Protection District #15*

California

*Edward L. Andrews, IV, Redding Fire Department
Matthew C. Burton, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District
Scott Peter Desmond, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District
Michael Paul Heuer, Sierra City Fire Department
Kevin C. Reed, Oakland Fire Department
Matthew Richard Will, CAL-Fire*

Connecticut

John F. Keane, Waterbury Fire Department

District of Columbia

*James McRae, III, District of Columbia Fire and Emergency
Medical Services*

Florida

*Jeremy "Chris" Adams, Springfield Fire Department
John Jacob "JJ" Curry, Volusia County Department of Fire Services
Paul T. Reynolds, Sr., Estero Fire Rescue*

Georgia

*Henry Lawrence "Hank" Pitts, Jr., Douglas County Fire/EMS
Felix M. Roberts, Fulton County Fire Department*

Idaho

*Dennis L. Davis, Idaho Helicopters, USDA Forest Service
contractor
Vernon R. McKenzie, Gem County Fire Protection District #2*

Illinois

*Michael Lee Fox, Vergennes Fire Department
William F. Grant, Chicago Fire Department
James "Shib" Miller, Sesser Fire Protection District
Scott A. Mumm, Mendota Fire Department
Bruce J. Zumwalt, Sheldon District Fire Department*

Indiana

*Bradley Wm. "Wally" Green, Monroe Township/Cowan Volunteer
Fire Department
Sidney A. Hall, Upland Volunteer Fire Department
Dennise M. Leslie, Coal City Community Volunteer Fire
Department*

Kansas

*Anthony P. Cox, Topeka Fire Department
Brandon Lee Daley, Butler County Fire District #3
Carl S. Engdahl, McPherson County Rural Fire Department #2
Bryon Wayne Johnson, Sedgwick County Fire District #1
Michael J. Tluscik, Sr., Kansas City Fire Department*

Kentucky

*Shane T. King, Danville Fire Department
Jerry W. Stucker, Dow Corning Fire Department
Steven Eric Vanderpool, Jr., White Oak Volunteer Fire
Department*

Maine

Peter Beebe-Lawson, Springfield Fire Department

Maryland

Racheal Michelle Wilson, Baltimore City Fire Department

Massachusetts

David A. Middleton, Boston Fire Department

Kelly L. Page, City of Lowell Fire Department

Michigan

John Eastman “Dawg” Lietzke, Olivet Fire Department

Peter G. “Pete” Neilson, Kenockee Township Fire Department

Timothy L. Sanborn, Clinton Area Fire and Rescue

Joseph Torkos, Detroit Fire Department

Mississippi

Jeffrey Jeans, Eudora Fire Department

Nebraska

Jeremy W. Wach, Wymore Fire & Rescue Department

New Jersey

John W. Broom-Smith, Jr., Seaside Heights Fire Department

Stephen R. Dembski, Fire Department of Ridgefield Park

Walter C. Fagan, Jr., East Greenwich Township Fire/Rescue

New York

Theodore J. Abriel, Sr., Albany Fire Department

Robert C. Beddia, Fire Department of New York

Anthony T. Catania, Middle Island Fire Department

Joseph P. Graffagnino, Fire Department of New York

Joseph E. Piazzzi, Briarcliff Manor Fire Department

Daniel F. Pujdak, Fire Department of New York

Edgar H. Scott, Menands Fire Company #1

North Carolina

Gerald “Jerry” Donley, Jr., Swepsonville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Todd Whitney Hage, Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department

Glenn W. Miller, Whispering Pines Fire Department

Nemeth F. Sanders, North Carolina Division of Forest Resources

Michael D. Stanfield, Anderson Township Volunteer Fire Department

O. Earl Stephenson, Jr., Angier & Black River Fire Department

Brandon Michael Whimple, Rhodestown Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Billy H. Williams, Rhodestown Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Ohio

Eddy G. Ivers, Concord - Greene Township Volunteer Fire Department

Jeffrey M. Murray, Sharon Township Fire Department

Steve Olinik, Jr., Rome Volunteer Fire Department

Jon C. Trainer, Mechanicsburg Fire Department

Jared W. Zimmerly, Prairie Township Fire Department

Oklahoma

Jon Mark Bingham, Geary Fire Department

Pennsylvania

Leonard R. “Lenny” Bailey, Jr., Elizabeth Volunteer Fire Department

William D. Church, Sr., Columbus Volunteer Fire Department

Adam E. “Coley” Cole, Buchanan Valley Volunteer Fire Department

Alphonse “Vincent” Germano, Jr., Derry Volunteer Fire Department

Jeremy C. LaBella, Washington Fire Department

William “Billy” McDaniels, Sr., Mocanaqua Volunteer Fire Company Number 1

Michael D. Reagan, Jr., Sharon Hill Fire Company

Raymond Charles Simonis, III, Wissahickon Fire Company

South Carolina

Rodney Bradford Baity, Charleston Fire Department

Theodore Michael Benke, Charleston Fire Department

Melvin Edward Champaign, Charleston Fire Department

James A. Drayton, Charleston Fire Department

Michael “Frenchie” French, Charleston Fire Department

William H. Hutchinson, III, Charleston Fire Department

Mark W. Kelsey, Charleston Fire Department

Louis M. Mulkey, Charleston Fire Department

Jeffrey D. Swartz, Wagener Fire Department

Brandon Kenyon Thompson, Charleston Fire Department

Tennessee

Shane M. Daughetee, Highway 58 Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

*Theresa Maria Kauffman Lynn, Luminary-Frostbite Volunteer
Fire Department, Inc.*

Texas

Austin Hague Cheek, Noonday Volunteer Fire Department

Joe E. Ivy, Nacogdoches Fire Department

Kevin Glenn Williams, Noonday Volunteer Fire Department

Virginia

*Kyle Robert Wilson, Prince William County Department of Fire
and Rescue*

West Virginia

Frederick Allen Burroughs, Ghent Volunteer Fire Department

Craig L. Dorsey, II, Ghent Volunteer Fire Department

*Christopher Michael Jaros, Ceredo Volunteer Fire-Rescue
Department*

Wisconsin

Robert W. “Bob” Phillips, Athelstane Volunteer Fire Department

David A. Rufer, Monroe Fire Department

Firefighters from Previous Years

2003

Louisiana

Benjamin Craig Rouchon, Bluff Creek Volunteer Fire Department

Pennsylvania

Darrell K. Michael, Russell Volunteer Fire Department

2004

Iowa

Greg Vieth, Davenport Fire Department

Missouri

William “Bill” Riley, Liberty Fire Department

2005

Alabama

Chelsea Lyn Garvin, Fish River-Marlow Fire & Rescue Department

Indiana

*David W. Stautamoyer, Blountsville/Stoney Creek Township
Volunteer Fire Department*

2006

New York

Paul Ryan Brady, Malverne Fire Department

Pennsylvania

John A. Stura, North Belle Vernon Fire Department

Texas

Gary Cook, Medina Lake Volunteer Fire Department