

A firefighter in full gear, including a helmet and gloves, is climbing a wooden ladder. The firefighter is positioned in the foreground, with the large, ornate dome of the Illinois State Capitol building in the background. The scene is set against a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a red, serif font.

*The 31st Annual
Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial
&
Firefighting Medal of Honor
Awards Ceremony*

*May 14th, 2024
Beginning at 10a.m. on the
State Capitol Lawn
Southwest corner on Statue Row
And reconvening at the
Bank of Springfield Center*

The 31st Annual Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial & Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony Program

Illinois Fallen Firefighter Monument

Welcome	<i>Timothy S. Clemens, Wilmette Fire Department (Ret)</i>
Presentation of the Colors	<i>Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard</i>
Invocation	<i>Father John Ouper</i>
Remarks	<i>Constitutional Officers</i>
Laying of the Wreath	<i>Governor JB Pritzker</i>
	<i>Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard</i>
Dismiss to the Bank of Springfield Center	

Bank of Springfield Center

Welcome	<i>Chief James G. Grady, III</i>
Posting of the Colors	<i>Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard</i>
Introductions	<i>Chief James G. Grady, III</i>
Remarks	<i>State Fire Marshal James A. Rivera</i>
Invocation	<i>Father John Ouper</i>
Bell Ceremony	<i>Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard</i>
Gold Badge Presentations	<i>State Fire Marshal James A. Rivera</i>
	<i>City of Chicago Fire Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt</i>
"Taps"	<i>Kirsten Clemens</i> <i>Ben King</i>

Presentation of the Certificate of Recognition	
Presentation of the Firefighter Excellence Award	
Presentation of the Firefighter Excellence Unit Citation Award	
Presentation of the Medal of Valor	
Presentation of the Medal of Honor	<i>Medal of Honor Committee & Memorial Foundation</i>

Musical Tribute

Presentation of the Fire & Life Safety Award	<i>State Fire Marshal James A. Rivera</i>
--	---

Closing Remarks	<i>Chief James G. Grady, III</i>
Retire the Colors	<i>Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard</i>
Luncheon	<i>BOS Center, Main Floor</i>

Line of Duty Death Gold Badge



The Gold Badge is presented to the families of firefighters who died while in, or as a result of, the performance of their duty.

Honorees

Firefighter/EMT Jermaine Pelt	Chicago Fire Department
Firefighter/EMT Andrew "Drew" Price	Chicago Fire Department
Lieutenant Jan Tchoryk	Chicago Fire Department
Lieutenant Kevin Ward	Chicago Fire Department
Fire Chief Larry Peasley	Maroa Countryside Fire Protection District

Certificate of Recognition

The Certificate of Recognition acknowledges those nominated for their dedication to the principles and traditions of the fire service, to the state and the community, with honor and integrity.

Recipient

Lieutenant Jason Sipes

Oswego Fire Protection District

Firefighter Excellence Award

The Firefighter Excellence Award is awarded for an act of service in the line of duty, demonstrating excellence and professionalism in service to the citizens of the State of Illinois.

Recipient

Captain Matt Hornbuckle

Joliet Fire Department

Firefighter Excellence Unit Citation Award

The Firefighter Excellence Unit Citation Award is awarded for an act of service in the line of duty, demonstrating excellence, teamwork, and professionalism in service to the citizens of the State of Illinois.

Recipients

Incident # 23-0716 Belvidere Fire Department

Lieutenant Travis Tangye, Lieutenant Nicolas Thornton, Firefighter Zachary Bullard,
Firefighter Matt Loudenbeck, Firefighter Greg Pavlatos

Incident # 23-000896 Midlothian Fire Department

Captain Jon Kucharski, Engineer James Ditzler, Firefighter/Paramedic Dan Dalzell,
Firefighter/Paramedic Steve Gorski, Firefighter/Paramedic Mike O'Keefe

Incident # 23-001758 Midlothian Fire Department

Lieutenant Rick Bielema, Engineer Martin Rita, Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Hammerlund,
Firefighter/Paramedic Richard Moore, Firefighter/Paramedic Mike O'Keefe,
Firefighter/Paramedic Martin Sobanski

Incident # 23-00103 Minooka Fire Protection District

Lieutenant Brian Mellen, Firefighter/Paramedic Matthew Feinberg,
Firefighter/Paramedic Emily Reilly, Firefighter/Paramedic Mason VanDuyne



Medal of Valor

The Medal of Valor award is given by the state of Illinois to a firefighter for an act of heroism or bravery that clearly demonstrated courage and dedication in the face of danger while in the performance of duty.

Recipients

Lieutenant Bryan Velez

Chicago Fire Department

Captain Clay Childers

Metropolis Fire Department

**Captain Nicholas Hansen
Firefighter Tobias Roderick**

Peoria Fire Department



Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the highest award given by the State of Illinois to a firefighter for an act of outstanding bravery or heroism, by which the firefighter has demonstrated in great degree the characteristics of selflessness and personal courage above and beyond the call of duty, under adverse conditions, with the possibility of extreme personal risk.

Recipients

Firefighter/EMT Jakub Majka

Firefighter/EMT James Pienta

Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter/Paramedic William Perry

Coal City Fire Protection District

Assistant Fire Chief David Browning

Captain Drew Pals

Montrose Fire Protection District

Lieutenant Brett Repking

Firefighter Dan Kocher

Firefighter Ryan Lee

Teutopolis Fire Protection District

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Fire & Life Safety Award

The Fire & Life Safety Award is presented to recognize the extraordinary efforts in furtherance of fire prevention and life safety by fire departments, firefighters, and staff from the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal.

Recipients

O'Fallon Fire Department

Fire Department

Michael Douglas

Operations

Fire Prevention Inspector I

Office of the State Fire Marshal

JC Fultz

Public Information Officer

Administration

Office of the State Fire Marshal





Dedicated to the Firefighters of Illinois

In 1993, the Illinois Fire Services Association unanimously agreed that a monument should be erected to serve as the official memorial on the grounds adjacent to the State Capitol Building. The Firefighting Medal of Honor Committee, appointed by the Governor, assumed the responsibility of bringing the memorial to reality.

Working with the Secretary of State's office, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and a nationally recognized sculptor, the committee developed a design concept to transform the site into a memorial in which the fire service of Illinois would be proud. The Illinois Firefighter Memorial is dedicated to the firefighters of Illinois, who have given their lives in the line of duty and to those firefighters who heroically serve with courage, pride and honor.

The artist was commissioned to design and construct an original bronze work of art consisting of four life-size figures of firefighters in full gear, a child, a ladder and hose. Each adult figure is approximately 6' 2" tall if in a standing position and represents the firefighters in full protective clothing, in action.

The art was created through the "lost wax" method of bronze casting and is finished in an antique bronze fire-on patina suitable for exterior exhibition, signed and dated by the artist. The figures are situated on a cairn 14 feet high consisting of Renaissance stone. There are 2,400 red paver bricks which are enclosed by a two foot high wall with capstones engraved with contributor's names.

It is here, at the Illinois Firefighter Memorial, that we honor those who have made the supreme sacrifice.

Firefighting Medal of Honor Committee

The Governor of Illinois appoints the Firefighting Medal of Honor Committee, established by PA 86-1250, consisting of the State Fire Marshal, Fire Commissioner of the City of Chicago, fire chiefs, representatives of fire service organizations, and retirees.

Timothy S. Clemens
Jay Coburn
Demond Dade
Daniel Fortuna
James G. Grady, III
Annette Nance-Holt
James A. Rivera
Mick Smith
Rick Welle

Wilmette Fire Department *(Ret.)*
Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois
Chief, Urbana Fire Department
Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois
Illinois Fire Chiefs Association
Fire Commissioner, City of Chicago
State Fire Marshal
Chief, Richton Park Fire Department
Edwardsville Fire Department *(Ret.)*

Firefighter Memorial Foundation

Membership in the Foundation also includes all members of the Firefighting Medal of Honor Committee.

Terry Ford
Greg Knoll
Robert Zamor

Godfrey Fire Protection District *(Ret.)*
Homewood Fire Department *(Ret.)*
Libertyville Fire Department *(Ret.)*



*“Dedicated to the firefighters of Illinois who
have given their lives in the line of duty
and to those who heroically serve
with courage, pride and honor”*

*Printed by the authority of the Illinois Firefighter Memorial Foundation.
(May 2024)*