

A firefighter in full gear, including a helmet and gloves, is working on a structure in front of the Illinois State Capitol dome. The firefighter is holding a long metal rod and appears to be adjusting or securing a part of the structure. The background shows the large, ornate dome of the Illinois State Capitol building under a clear blue sky.

*The 29th Annual
Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial
&
Firefighting Medal of Honor
Awards Ceremony*

*May 10th, 2022
Beginning at 10a.m. on the
State Capitol Lawn
Southwest corner on Statue Row
And reconvening at the
Bank of Springfield Center*

The 29th Annual Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial & Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony Program

Illinois Fallen Firefighter Monument

Presentation of the Colors	<i>Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard</i>
Invocation	<i>Father John Ouper Oswego Fire Protection District</i>
Remarks	<i>Constitutional Officers</i>

Bank of Springfield Center

Posting of the Colors	<i>Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard</i>
Introductions	<i>Chief James Grady, III</i>
Remarks	<i>State Fire Marshal Matt Perez</i>
Invocation	<i>Father John Ouper</i>
Bell Ceremony	<i>Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard</i>
Presentation of the Gold Badge	<i>State Fire Marshal Matt Perez</i>
<i>"Taps"</i>	<i>Kirsten Clemens & Ben King</i>
Presentation of the Fire & Life Safety Award	<i>State Fire Marshal Matt Perez</i>
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	
Closing Remarks	<i>Chief James Grady, III</i>
Retire the Colors	<i>Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard</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 Mehdi Mourad

Wabash Fire Protection District

Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Pickering

Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter/EMT MaShawn Plummer

Chicago Fire Department

Lieutenant Garrett Ramos

Sterling Fire Department



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

Anthony Rodkey
Fred Schneller
Scott Johnson

Countryside Fire Protection District
Office of the State Fire Marshal
Office of the State Fire Marshal

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.

Recipients

Firefighter Scott Hinko
Firefighter Drake Tate
Engineer Ross Smith
Engineer Brian Smith
Firefighter Easton Hoskins
Captain James Pendergast
Firefighter Kyle Harms
Firefighter/Paramedic Christopher Isabelli
Firefighter/Paramedic Dustin Vandermeir
Firefighter/Paramedic Steven Devaney
Firefighter/Paramedic Alex Heavey
Firefighter/Paramedic Justin Wenk
Firefighter Luke DeYoung
Lieutenant Garrett Ramos
Firefighter Nick Hammer

Calumet City Fire Department
Centralia Fire Department
Centralia Fire Protection District
Champaign Fire Department
Danville Fire Department
Galesburg Fire Department
Galesburg Fire Department
Lockport Twp. Fire Protection District
Lockport Twp. Fire Protection District
South Holland Fire Department
South Holland Fire Department
South Holland Fire Department
South Holland Fire Department
Sterling Fire Department
Sterling 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 #21-03340—Bensenville Fire Protection District

BC Angel Reyes, LT Nevin Hahn, FF Zach Schneeberger, FF Adam Sochacki,
FF Mateo Valadez, FF Andrew Walter

Incident #21-04139—Calumet City Fire Department

CPT Tim McGannon, CPT Ron Tenzera, ENG Mike Ball, ENG Aaron Borowski,
ENG Steve Drew, FF Ryan Banks, FF Cesar Garcia, FF Rick Graser, FF Alex James,
FF Chris Pierce, FF Steve Uthe

Incident #21-02470—Calumet City Fire Department

CPT Tom Dukups, CPT Mike Flanagan, LT Ryan Hornback, ENG Chris Sullivan,
ENG Eric Wieser, FF Bryan Lowery, FF Joe Okichich, FF Nick Panzucuk,
FF Mike Peterlin, FF Tim Piepenbrink, FF Chuck Schultz, FF Dan Vasilak

Incident #21-01790—Centralia Fire Dept./Huey Ferris Boulder Fire Protection Dist.

LT Robert Smith Jr., FF Jeff Kleiboeker

Incident #21-03629—Champaign Fire Department

LT Mike Bayless, LT Bradley Diel, LT Chip Haake, LT Mathew Plutz, LT Chad Pruitt,
LT Jason Rector, ENG Jeremy Allen, ENG William Bleich, ENG Russ Houston,
ENG Cole Hunt, ENG Stephen McConkey, ENG Brian Smith,
FF Evan Brewbaker, FF Paul Doyle, FF Justin Kaiser, FF Alex Kocher, FF Elliott Kraft,
FF James Rear, FF Zachary Tish

Incident #21-006-1733-00—Chicago Fire Department

CPT Robert Fleckenstein, FF Mario Cerna, FF David Pae, FF Wilfredo Rodriguez

Incident #21-00057—Collinsville Fire Department

LT Frank Arnold, LT Chris Castens, FF David Badgett, FF John Canull, FF Eric Freeman,
FF Daniel Gullede, FF Justin Verner, FF Jim Wilderman

Incident #21-02378—Danville Fire Department

CPT Sean O'Kane, FF Kaleb Thompson

Incident #21-02308—Evergreen Park Fire Department

CPT Frederick Vollinger, ALT Andrew Turner, ENG Raymond Fineron,
FF Austin Cangelosi, FF Michael Murphy, FF Justin Rehnquist, FF Anthony Schickel,
FF Thomas Simich, FF Larry Whitehorn, FF Robert Williams, FF Colin Zofkie

Incident #21-00734—Galesburg Fire Department

FF Andrew Johnson, FF Kyle McGee, FF Anthony McKillip

Incident #21-00181—Homer-Sidney Fire Protection District

LT Corey Lilly, LT Jeremy Richards, FF Mike Brann

Incident #21-4300104—South Holland Fire Dept./Glenwood Fire Dept.

FF Tony Bruegmann, FF Eric Kearney, FF Michael Lampkin, FF Steve Pelc,
FF Edward Ritzema, FF Jon Sloop

The background features a large, semi-transparent image of the Medal of Valor. At the top, a ribbon with vertical stripes of red, white, and blue is visible. Below it is the emblem of the Medal of Valor, which consists of two crossed fire axes forming a shield shape. The word "VALOR" is inscribed across the top of the shield. The entire emblem is surrounded by a laurel wreath. The text of the recipients is overlaid on this background.

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

Firefighter/EMT Richard Drabik

Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter/Paramedic Colin Fuhrmann

Collinsville Fire Department

Lieutenant Chad Busick

Danville Fire Department

Engineer Jason Milakovich

Evergreen Park Fire Department

Lieutenant Adrian Avelar

Sterling Fire Department

Firefighter Jeff Kimpel

Sterling Fire Department

Firefighter Lucas Pfister

Sterling 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.

Recipient

Lieutenant Brian Kulaga

Cicero Fire Department





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.

In Memory of



Firefighter Mehdi Mourad

June 15, 2000 - June 27, 2021



Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Pickering

February 17, 1976 - October 08, 2021



Firefighter/EMT MaShawn Plummer

June 21, 1991 - December 21, 2021



Lieutenant Garrett Ramos

October 27, 1983 - December 4, 2021

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 Grady, III
Tracy Kenny
Annette Nance-Holt
Matt Perez
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
Chief, Broadview Fire Department
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
James LaMotte
Robert Zamor

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

In Memory of
James LaMotte

1940 - 2022



This year, we lost a dedicated member of the Illinois Firefighter Memorial Foundation. Jim served as the treasurer of the Foundation and as a member of the Medal of Honor Committee. Jim's commitment to the Foundation was unparalleled. His promptness and thoroughness in maintaining the financial records earned him praise by state auditors and vendors alike.

Jim took a personal interest in the children of our fallen firefighters. He maintained contact with several of them as they completed their college education offering advice and support.

Jim began his career in the fire service as a volunteer firefighter in 1958 with the Momence Fire Protection District where he served for over 50 years including 21 years as fire chief. He was a sitting member and past president of the board of trustees.

He is greatly missed.



*“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 2022)*