

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 30th Annual
Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial
&
Firefighting Medal of Honor
Awards Ceremony*

*May 9th, 2023
Beginning at 10a.m. on the
State Capitol Lawn
Southwest corner on Statue Row
And reconvening at the
Bank of Springfield Center*

The 30th 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>Chief James Grady, III</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 James Rivera</i>
Invocation	<i>Chief James Grady, III</i>
Bell Ceremony	<i>Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard</i>
<i>"Taps"</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	
Presentation of the Fire & Life Safety Award	<i>State Fire Marshal James Rivera</i>
Closing Remarks	<i>Chief James 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.

As we remember our fallen firefighters in the past, we are fortunate there were no line of duty deaths.



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

Engineer John Eachus
Belleville Fire Department

Battalion Chief Dan Wagner
Elgin Fire Department

Fire Chief Joseph Schrage
Deputy Fire Chief Frank Nardomarino

Lieutenant John Brens

Lieutenant Paul Grzybek

Lieutenant Albert Lopez

Lieutenant Erik Mocogni

Lieutenant Eloy Salazar

Firefighter Kevin Best

Firefighter Peter Caruso

Firefighter Peter Goss

Firefighter Christopher Gottschalk

Firefighter Brian McDonald

Firefighter Michael Miniscalco

Firefighter Trevor Mount

Firefighter Beneiamin Oros

Firefighter Michael Pacocha

Firefighter Michael Schmidt

Firefighter Andrew Seibel

Firefighter Micah Swislow

Firefighter Peter Taming

Firefighter Nicholas Traske

Highland Park 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

Engineer/Driver Ryan Mahoney

Belleville Fire Department

Probationary Firefighter Alexander Kuhl

Belleville Fire Department

Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Haemker

Bradley Fire Department

Firefighter Jason Warner

Collinsville Fire Department

Firefighter/EMT Juan Gonzalez

Chicago Fire Department

Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Mullins

Plainfield 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

Matt Hedges
Fire Department

Woodstock Fire Rescue District
Deputy Chief

Thomas Andryk
Administration

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Technical Advisor III

Thomas Manis
Operations

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Fire Prevention Inspector II





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 Grady, III
Tracy Kenny
Annette Nance-Holt
James 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
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
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 2023)*