As President of California Professional Firefighters and Chair of the California Fire Foundation, it is my honor to welcome all of you to the 2012 California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony … a time when we again pay tribute to those who have sacrificed their lives in service to California.

Every year, the proud men and women of our profession put on their turnouts and answer the call at any time … day or night. Some don’t return. The polished limestone wall at the California Firefighters’ Memorial honors more than 1,200 of these “casual heroes,” who gave their lives in the line of duty since California became a state.

This year, we mark the 10th anniversary of the California Firefighters Memorial. This special tribute on the grounds of California’s State Capitol honors not only to the sacrifice of those we have lost, but the determination and commitment of those who fight on every day in service to their state and their community.

At the time of the unveiling in 2002, the Memorial Wall carried the names of roughly 850 fallen firefighters. Today, sadly, that number exceeds 1,200. We lost many of those within the last decade, but others were individuals from earlier years whose sacrifice only recently came to light.

To us, every one of them is special.

Firefighters do not aspire to a hero’s welcome, or a hero’s farewell. For these men and women, the risks are all part of the job. But as colleagues, and as citizens, we know the price that they and their families pay to keep us safe.

As it has for the past decade, and as it will for decades to come, this Memorial stands as a testament to their sacrifice. Their courage and dedication are a permanent part of California history.

We will never forget them.
Fallen Firefighter Memorial

Since the 2002 unveiling of the California Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Capitol Park, this historical monument continues to serve as a timeless tribute to the selflessness and sacrifice of over 1,000 men and women whose lives were lost in the line of duty.

From thriving cities to the rugged terrain that spans our golden state, over 30,000 firefighters are sworn to serve and protect us from harm’s way. Every hour and every day, these courageous men and women answer the call during our darkest hour and in our most dire need.

These exceptional men and women do not expect honors or accolades for their courage, knowledge and skill. Instead, a firefighter’s reward comes from a job well done – knowing that a precious life has been saved, that catastrophe has been averted, and that our land and resources remain preserved.

On behalf of over 37 million Californians, we are forever grateful to the families, friends and colleagues of our fallen heroes. The California Fallen Firefighters Memorial will continue to honor your loss and their legacy. We will never forget.

Sincerely,

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

EDMOND K. CROSSLEY
Captain, National City Fire Department
June 18, 1971

Ed was born in 1919 into a family of nine in Colorado. His family moved to National City where Ed became a firefighter with National City for 25 years. Ed’s wife Willa worked at a nearby car dealership in town. Ed played baseball in his youth. He also coached the “Fireman” Little League team to a championship level and started NCFD as the longest continuous sponsor of a Little League team in National City. Captain Crossley died prematurely of a massive heart attack while still on the job.

WESLEY K. MALCOLM
Captain, National City Fire Department
December 26, 1976

Wesley was born in 1919 in San Francisco. He was hired in as a rookie firefighter in 1947. "Moose" was a big imposing man. He was remembered as an exceptional Engineer. Moose also drove trucks as a side job. He married late in life to Joanne. They had a ten-year marriage until Moose contracted job-related brain cancer. Captain Malcolm had 29 years on the job and a little over one year of retirement.

CHARLES WILLIAM COOPER
Captain, Sacramento City Fire Department
September 1, 1978

Prior to joining the Sacramento Fire Department in 1956, Charles Cooper, "Chuck," served in the Coast Guard and Navy Reserves. Chuck served the City of Sacramento for 22 years prior to succumbing to lung cancer on September 1, 1978 at the age of 52. After his death, Chuck continued contributing to the fire service of today. His death from lung cancer was determined to have been caused by his exposure to carcinogens. His was one of the first cases in which a court decided that cancer is presumptive for firefighters.

JAMES GENNAIO CATANZARITE
Captain, National City Fire Department
May 7, 1986

Jim was born in 1920 in Ohio, but WWII brought him to the San Diego area where he settled in National City with his wife Rosina. During WWII, Jim was assigned to submarines and destroyers while in the US Navy. Jim certainly had the gift of gab and was continuously talking with his brothers at the station. He had a side job at a local barber shop and cut hair for all his fire buddies. "Katz", as he was called, died from job-related heart disease at age 65.
Tom decided on a firefighting career in college and wildland fires held a special interest for him. He was the consummate fireman, whether in the station or on the scene. Tom was a cherished husband, father, brother and son who devoted himself to his family, faith and community. He dedicated himself to the fire service and his brother and sister firefighters until his death at age 36 from job-related kidney cancer. Subsequently, a park, a benevolent foundation, and a street on the campus of Arrowhead Regional Medical Center were named after him.

“Jake” was drawn to firefighting at an early age, awed by and respectful of the power of fire. People around him could tell that they were valued and longed to spend time with him. He loved fighting fires, but excelled at caring for those at the scene of an emergency. Like most of his colleagues, Jake saw being a firefighter and EMT as a calling. Jake was diagnosed with job-related leukemia and died three days later on October 7, 1992.

Crawley Traweek was born near Birmingham, Alabama, and grew up on a farm. He later married, settled in National City, and began his career with the National City Fire Department, where everybody knew him as Jim. He dragged many of his fellow firefighters to Baja on “adventure trips.” He enjoyed the camaraderie at the station and learned much from his “firefriends.” His CB radio call name was “Sea Turtle” because of the wrinkles on his long neck and his love of ocean fishing. Jim died prematurely of job-related heart disease in 1992, not long after his retirement.

In 1953 Dave was hired by the National City Fire Department. David was a bit of an entertainer. He practiced and perfected his card tricks and his sleight of hand, much to the delight of his fellow firefighters. Dave saw many changes during his tenure in the fire service. He had a son with the same name that recently succumbed to cancer in 2012. Captain Jacobs was taken early after retirement with job-related heart disease.

John Whyte grew up in San Diego and joined the San Diego Fire Department in 1966. John was often called “the calm in the eye of a fire storm.” When the biggest fires hit, his organizational skills became a great asset. He genuinely cared for the firefighters under his command and would lend whatever help he could. John also volunteered his time teaching fire safety to local schools and working with his church. In 1995, he lost his battle with job-related cancer.

Mitchell Guarano enjoyed a 23-year career with the National City Fire Department where he earned his fire science degree and was promoted to Engineer. Mitchell demonstrated his commitment by becoming proficient in Spanish to serve as the liaison to the Bombero Program which provides firefighters from Mexico with advanced fire training. He was passionate about antique transportation and gave special care to his department’s 1925 Seagraves fire engine. Mitchell died from complications with work-related cancer in 1996.

Willie was born in 1934, in Mesa, Arizona. He was a member of the US Marine Corp in the early 1950’s. He married Glenda Nell and had two sons in the San Diego area. He was nicknamed “Mother Willie” because of the way he took care of other firefighters at the station. He was a hard working family man who took on side jobs to help his kids and make ends meet. Willie loved his fellow firefighters and on occasion would break down when speaking about them. He died of job-related cancer at the age of 62.

Ronald Contreras was known as the “Silver Fox” by his family, friends and comrades in the San Diego Fire Department. He was born in La Mesa, California and was the youngest male sibling of eleven children. During his 31 years of service, the “Silver Fox” participated in a multitude of fire and rescue calls, but took special pride in delivering many babies on calls. His fellow firefighters were most familiar with his flair for cooking. In 207, Brother Contreras lost his battle with job-related lung cancer.
Gregory Jess Gonsioroski, better known as “Gonzo,” started his firefighting career as a mechanic with Neptune Aviation until he earned the rest of his flight ratings in 2000. He served as 1st officer (co-pilot) on the P-2V Neptune. Greg was known as a gentle giant who always put others first. He was a devoted and compassionate husband and father. Off duty, he enjoyed hunting, carpentry, and spending time with family and friends. Dispatched to the Smitty Fire by the United States Forest Service, Greg died in an air tanker crash September 1, 2008.

Zachary Vandergriend loved life and was passionate about his family and his faith. He found his professional passion as a pilot, combining it with his love of service by becoming an aerial firefighter. When asked if he could stay on the ground where it was safe, he replied, “these people are losing everything, i have to go.” Responding to a call for help by the United States Forest Service, Zachary died in an air tanker crash September 1, 2008 on dispatch to the Smitty Fire.

When Gene graduated from high school he joined the Navy and served in Vietnam on river patrol boats. He next served as a lineman for Utah Power and Light, where he saved a fellow lineman. Licensed as a pilot in 1979, he flew fire retardant tankers, smokejumper aircraft, infra-red fire mapping missions, and lead plane for the U.S. Forest Service. Gene and his wife shared numerous passions including professional drag racing, skiing, riding their Harleys, and tooling around in their Model A. Responding to a call for help by the United States Forest Service, Gene and his crew were dispatched to the Smitty Fire when the aircraft crashed.

Bill Rodat forged his path into the fire service when he joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1977. Bill then began working for CAL FIRE, where he served as a fire captain and “training captain” in Tulare County. He was named Tulare’s “Firefighter of the Year” in 1999, 2001, and 2007. Bill’s passion as a firefighter was working “in the field and training new firefighters to excel on the job.” He died of job-related cancer in 2009.

Doran “Lynn” Hayes lived most of his life in Corona, California. During his 35 years of service he worked as an Engineer and Captain. His protective spirit and love of hunting earned him the nickname of “Bwana”, which means “great hunter” to the men at the station. It also means master father. Lynn is also among the distinct few to respond to a structure fire at his own house. Lynn succumbed to job-related lung cancer in 2009.

David Bruce Reed served 32 years with the Corona Fire Department, the same city in which he was born and raised. David always met a challenge with a smile on his face. He loved spending time with his family and friends, and he celebrated living life to the fullest. He also enjoyed NASCAR, boating, quad rides, and traveling. David lost his courageous two-year battle with job-related esophageal cancer at the age of 60.
WILLIAM ANTHONY YOUNG  
Captain, Vallejo Fire Department  
July 10, 2010

William Young spent a career of 31 years moving up the ranks as firefighter, engineer, and fire investigator to become a Captain for the last eight years of his career. He never stopped being a firefighter even after he retired, which showed in his actions and caring nature. Bill took care of his family, making sure they always had what they needed, and he never made a promise he couldn’t keep. Brother Young died in 2010 after a long battle with job-related cancer.

DOUGLAS DREW TAYLOR  
Captain, Cathedral City Fire Department  
July 30, 2010

Doug Taylor always put family first, whether it was his own or his extended firefighter family. He worked for 21 years at Cathedral City Fire Department, beginning his career as a reserve before being hired as a Fire Fighter / Paramedic in May 1989. Doug was promoted to Captain on March 24, 1994. Doug was an amazing devoted husband and father. In 2010, Brother Taylor lost his battle with job-related brain cancer.

TIMOTHY ETCHEVERRY  
Captain, CAL FIRE  
March 12, 2011

Tim began his career as an engineer for CDF in 1975. Tim developed a passion for competing with the CA Rural Firemen’s Association from 1977-1983, winning many trophies in hose laying and pumper competitions. He was promoted to Captain in 1989 and retired in 2005. Tim loved his job and his fellow firefighters, making many friendships throughout his career. Off duty, Tim was a loving husband, brother, father, and grandfather. After a two-year battle, Tim succumbed to job-related cancer in March 2011.

KEVIN H. MOORE  
Engineer, Pasadena Fire Department  
May 31, 2011

Kevin began his career with the Pasadena Fire Department on November 5, 1979. Following his father, Kevin’s love of the job inspired two of his younger brothers to join the fire service almost a decade later. Affectionately known as “The Viking” by his brothers at the station, he quickly rose to the position of Fire Engineer and served there for 25 years. Kevin was an avid and skilled “on and off road” motorcycle rider, On May 31, 2011, Brother Moore died of a heart attack shortly after finishing a 24-hour shift.

ERIC D. SHEPHERD  
Firefighter, Los Angeles City Fire Department  
July 18, 2011

Eric Shepherd was born on July 12, 1978 and grew up in Carson, California. He was adventurous and enjoyed motorcycling, snowboarding, mountain biking, and traveling abroad. He also loved firing up the barbeque grill at home and cooking with his brother and sister firefighters at the station. Eric was wise beyond his years and lived his life with grace, honor, dignity, and integrity. Eric died of a job-related heart attack on July 18, 2011.

JAMES MICHAEL ELLISON  
Fire Chief, San Miguel Community Services District  
July 26, 2011

In 1965 James Ellison was hired as firefighter with the Central Valley Fire Department. He quickly moved up the ranks from Firefighter to Engineer, to Captain, and became the department’s youngest Battalion Chief. Early in 2000, he accepted a position as Fire Chief for the San Miguel Community Services District, where he worked until his death. James was also a two time President of the California Fire Chiefs Association. In May of 2011 he was diagnosed with job-related kidney cancer and died in July 2011.

RONALD SCOTT REED  
Engineer, San Bernardino County Fire Department  
August 18, 2011

Ron Reed, known as “Ronbo,” dedicated 24 years of his life to the California fire service. He spent most of his career as an engineer, which he loved. He had a lifetime of passion for firefighting and loved the excitement and challenge of battling a burning building and helping others. His greatest joys in life were his children, spending time outdoors, and especially spending time at home with his family. Ron’s life was cut short after a long battle with job-related kidney cancer at the age of 50.

GREGORY PAUL TURNER  
Deputy Fire Chief, Chino Valley Fire Protection District  
August 23, 2011

Chief Turner passed away on August 23, 2011 after a courageous battle with job-related cancer. A 37-year veteran of the fire service, Chief Turner dedicated his life to public safety and the brothers and sisters he served with over the past three decades. One of his many accomplishments during his tenure was the Make a Child smile Program, which he founded in December 2002. Under Chief Turner’s leadership and vision, the program has helped thousands of underprivileged children and seniors during the holidays.
JOHN L. WEDDLE
Engineer, Huntington Beach Fire Department
September 13, 2011

John Weddle grew up in Long Beach, California and was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He joined the Huntington Beach Fire Department in 1972 where he served for 27 years as a firefighter, fire engineer/inspector, arson investigator, hazardous materials specialist, and labor contract negotiator. He loved being an engineer and often claimed it was “the best job in the fire service.” John died from job-related blood cancer at the age of 67.

GLENN V. SMITH
Firefighter Pilot, Los Angeles City Fire Department
September 26, 2011

Glenn Smith was the 12th of 17 children. He became the first person in the department to hold three titles at once—firefighter, paramedic, and helicopter pilot. Glenn wrote the guidelines and duties for chief pilot and later retired in that position. Glenn was always calm and loving, with an infectious grin. Last fall, Glenn lost his battle with job-related cancer at age 54.

DARREN S. ROCCKETT
Engineer, Long Beach Fire Department
November 6, 2011

Engineer Darren Rockett, known as “Rock” to his friends and co-workers, was born November 10, 1963. Appointed in 1997, “Rock” was a 14-year veteran of the Long Beach Fire Department and was promoted to engineer June 6, 2002. He actively participated in volunteer work and was the Senior Deacon at his church. He married his wife Jeanne in 1989, and together they settled in Long Beach, and began raising a family. Brother Rockett succumbed to a job-related illness a few days before his 48th birthday.

JOHN MORRIS MOSHER
Firefighter, Los Angeles County Fire Department
December 13, 2011

John Mosher, known by his friends as “Johnny Cakes,” died at his home in Hollywood, Maryland on December 13, 2011. John loved being a fireman and loved his country. He was part of a group of Los Angeles County firefighters who went to New York after the 9/11 attack to aid the victims and help the families of the fallen NYFD firefighters. He was also a volunteer for the Make a Wish Foundation and always enjoyed helping others.

GARY STEVEN MORGAN
Captain, Los Angeles County Fire Department
December 25, 2011

Gary Morgan began his firefighting career in 1977, and, in 1991, he was promoted to Captain. He was a devoted husband and loving father. His friends and colleagues described him as courageous, compassionate, and unswervingly loyal. Gary retired on January 31, 2011 after 31 years of service as a firefighter. On December 25, 2011, he passed away after a long battle with job-related throat cancer.

KEITH LANE CRABTREE
Engineer, Turlock City Fire Department
January 10, 2012

Keith started his firefighting career by joining the Hughson Volunteer Fire Department in 1979, then Stanislaus County Fire in October 1985, and finally Turlock City Fire in June of 1989, obtaining the rank of Acting Captain. He enjoyed starting and being advisor to the Fire Explorer Post where both of his sons belonged. He also enjoyed the outdoors -- an avid hunter and fisherman. This past January, Brother Crabtree lost his battle with job-related cancer.

ANDY MICHAEL TRONCALE
Captain, Arcadia Fire Department
January 23, 2012

Captain Andy Troncale was an exceptional firefighter, loving family man and devoted friend to many. Andy loved the fire service and served with honor and distinction for over 30 years. As a senior Captain he embodied the finest qualities of a true firefighter and received several awards recognizing his contribution to the profession and his community. Andy was a great leader and a mentor and friend to his brother and sister firefighters. Andy Troncale died of job-related cancer at age 52.

MARK GREGORY RATLEDGE
Captain, Cottonwood Fire Protection District
February 29, 2012

In 1978 Mark’s family moved to Redding where he spent his childhood. Influenced by his Redding firefighter friend Don Borden, Mark decided to pursue a career as a firefighter. During this time Mark served as both a volunteer and temporary firefighter with the Redding and Cottonwood Fire Departments and the US Forest Service. He was appointed Fire Captain in 2008 and gladly took the role of Training Officer as safety was among his highest priorities. Mark enjoyed the outdoors and animals and spent happy times with his best friend Tigger. Mark was killed on February 29, 2012 at the scene of a traffic accident, where he was struck by a truck that lost control as it passed the accident.
DAVID LLEWELLYN BAILEY
Captain, Los Angeles County Fire Department
April 3, 2012

Dave started his career with Los Angeles County Fire Department in September 1994. His 18 years of accomplishments took him from Firefighter to Engineer and up to Fire Captain. Dave was a loving and amazing husband with a great sense of humor. He also reveled in restoring his 69 Roadrunner, loved fast cars, dirt bikes, and traveling. Dave died after suffering a medical emergency while on duty on April 3, 2012 and his last selfless act was to be an organ donor.

WILLIAM L. WEST
Engineer, East Contra Costa Fire Protection District
June 11, 2012

Engineer Willie West followed his childhood dream and became a firefighter with Lockheed Missiles and Space in 1989 and became a full-time firefighter with ECCFPD in 2002. Willie will be remembered for his professionalism, kindness, and sincere, gentle spirit. With a big grin on his face and laughter in his blue eyes, he welcomed everyone he met with open arms. This past June, West lost his battle with job-related cancer.

HOLLIS GEORGE FRANKS
Firefighter, Alameda County Fire Department
June 23, 2012

Hollis Franks was hired into the Alameda County Fire Patrol in 1973. During his 40 year fire service career, he received numerous unit citations including the California State Firefighter Medal of Valor. Franks’ commitment extended beyond the firehouse to the entire country. He served 33 years in the military and received three different awards for acts of heroism during the Vietnam War. Franks passed away in June 2012 after a brief but valiant battle with job-related lung cancer.

RICHARD A. CONNER
Captain, Anaheim Fire Department
July 28, 2012

Rich grew up in Fullerton, California where he lived most of his life. He worked for the Anaheim Fire Department for approximately 28 years, and retired as a Captain in 2009. Rich was known for his great sense of humor and positive attitude. He loved working with his hands and could build a house from the ground up. He was always interested in helping others with their training and motivating them to succeed. Rich was 55 years old when he passed away from job-related prostate cancer.