As President of California Professional Firefighters and Chair of the California Fire Foundation, I am once again honored to welcome you to the California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony, our annual tribute to the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our state.

Each year, we come together in this hallowed spot to pay tribute to those who put their lives on the line every day. Whether their lives were taken in a quick and tragic moment or they eventually succumbed to a job-related disease, each of the 16 men we honor today risked it all for each one of us.

We gather in Sacramento this year, with heavy hearts as we reflect upon the significant losses experienced by our profession and those with whom we serve. As California reels from its most recent fire season – one which claimed the lives of several firefighters across the West – we hail their selfless call to duty.

These incidents are poignant reminders that when a firefighter puts on turnouts and heads out to a call, there is always the chance that he or she will not return. The polished limestone wall at the California Firefighters Memorial honors more than 1,260 individuals who gave their lives in the line of duty since California became a state.

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

As firefighters and Californians, we recognize the danger that these brave men and women face every day and the significant sacrifices made by those they leave behind. For all of them, and for the people of our state, we etch their names into this proud Memorial.

Brothers and sisters, we will never forget you.

Lou Paulson
President, California Professional Firefighters
Chair, California Fire Foundation
CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL CEREMONY

UNIFORMED FIREFIGHTERS PROCESSION

PRESENTATION OF COLORS
CAL FIRE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Humberto Agurcia, Firefighter-Paramedic, Los Angeles County Fire Department

INVOCATION
Father Jayson Landeza, Chaplain, Oakland Fire Department

WELCOME
Lou Paulson, President, California Professional Firefighters

ON BEHALF OF CALIFORNIA
Kamala D. Harris, California Attorney General

“SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW”
UC Davis A Cappella Group

SALUTE TO THE PROFESSION
Jaime Camil, Actor

REMEMBERING A FELLOW FIREFIGHTER
Vince Wells, Fire Captain, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

“FALLING STAR”
Lyrics by Mela Lee, Music by Mela Lee & Alexander Burke (Magnolia Memoir)

FLAG PRESENTATION TO FAMILIES
Tracey Hansen, President, California Fire Chiefs Association

THE LAST ALARM
Dan Terry, President Emeritus, California Professional Firefighters

THE RELEASE OF DOVES

RECESSIONAL
An immigrant from Ireland, Daniel Scully was quick to establish himself in the fire service of his new nation. As a volunteer firefighter in the city of New York, Scully was recognized for his bravery - an attribute that would eventually aid him during his service in the fire departments of San Francisco and Vallejo. Scully died of heart disease at the scene of a Vallejo structure fire in 1884 at the age of 42.

A lover of California’s wilderness areas, Frank Earl Troutman, Jr. embodied the finest qualities of a true firefighter, serving the citizens of California with honor and distinction for nine years. In addition to firefighting, Frank loved scouting, camping and exploring California’s wild outdoors, from the Sierra Nevada to its rugged North Coast. For Frank, the opportunity to live and work as a firefighter was a dream come true. He died of an on-duty heart attack at the age of 46.

Following his service in the United States Air Force, William Marsh joined the San Rafael Fire Department as an engineer in 1972. Over the course of his eight-year career with the department, William developed a reputation for his sense of humor and was remembered for always carrying around a book of jokes in his pocket. He was an avid motorcycle rider, as well as a gifted athlete, serving as the star second baseman on the department’s baseball team. William is survived by his two children. He died in 1980 after suffering an on-duty aneurysm at the age of 33.
JAMES F. HORTON
Firefighter, Los Angeles County Fire Department
August 27, 1997

Having been interested in the fire service since his teenage years, James F. Horton began his career in 1962, when he joined the Whittier Fire Department. Thirteen years later, the department was absorbed by the Los Angeles County Fire Department, where James would serve until his retirement in 1992. During his three decades of service, he took great pleasure in his work, relishing every opportunity to help others. In his free time, James was drawn to the outdoors, spending a great deal of time fishing and hunting with his firefighter friends. He is survived by his wife, Dixie, and two sons. James died in 1997 following a two-year battle with occupational lung cancer.

CRAIG NIELSEN
Fire Captain, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department
January 13, 2004

Craig Nielsen began his career with the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department in 1974, eventually rising to the rank of captain in 1989. During his career, he spent several years in the department's fire communications center, where he served as dispatch captain and proved instrumental in the department's transition to a modern, computer-aided dispatch system. Craig loved the fire service and served the citizens of San Diego bravely over the course of his nearly 27-year career. Craig is survived by his wife, Leslie, and their son and daughter. He died in 2014 of a job-related heart attack at the age of 57.

ORAN SHADOAN
Engineer, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department
June 6, 2004

Oran Shadoan began his fire service career with the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department in 1960 and was promoted to the rank of fire engineer in 1969. After 42 years of dedicated service to his community, he retired in 2002. He will be remembered by many for his unwavering commitment to his family, his exemplary skills as an engineer and his quiet and unassuming manner. Oran is survived by his wife, Olga, their two daughters and four sons. He died in 2004 due to complications from job-related pancreatic cancer at the age of 66.
CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL CEREMONY 2015

PHOTO BY ROBBIE PANCO
JOHN P. ELLIFF
Battalion Chief, CAL FIRE
March 2, 2005

John P. Elliff began his career as a seasonal firefighter with CAL FIRE in 1968 and would rise to the rank of battalion chief over almost three and a half decades of service. Over the course of his career, John worked tirelessly to protect the citizens of California and was a founding member of the Diablo Fire Safe Council, which sought to substantially reduce the impact of wildland fires in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Outside of firefighting, John loved the outdoors, spending time camping, hiking, flying his airplane, sailing with friends and traveling to our country’s National Parks. John is survived by his wife, Debbie, and their three sons. He died in 2005 after succumbing to the effects of job-related cancer at the age of 55.

PETE SANTANA
Captain, CAL FIRE
December 20, 2013

Following his time in the military, Pete Santana began his fire service career as a member of the Gilroy Rural Fire District in 1972. Three years later, he joined CAL FIRE, where he would rise to the rank of captain and spend the remainder of his career before retiring in 2005. During his time with CAL FIRE, Pete worked extensively with volunteer programs in the area, including those designed to teach school children about fire safety. In his spare time, Pete loved to golf, spend time with his family and make memorable movies of family events. Pete is survived by his wife, Nancy, and their son and daughter. He died in 2013 after a two-year battle with job-related cancer at the age of 64.

RENNY E. LEROY
Assistant Chief, CAL FIRE
April 3, 2014

Renny E. LeRoy began his career in the fire service with CAL FIRE as a seasonal firefighter in 1971. Over the years, he rose through the ranks and was promoted to the rank of assistant chief in 2003. Throughout his career, Renny was known as a cool-headed and caring leader who always used his strength and knowledge to help others. Outside of firefighting, he loved his family, cars, golf, RV travel and camping on the beach. Renny will be missed by all who knew him. Renny is survived by his wife, Loretta. He died in 2014 after a two-year battle with job-related pancreatic cancer at the age of 60.
**STEPHEN A. WILSON**  
Engineer, CAL FIRE  
April 6, 2014

Stephen A. Wilson began his career as a seasonal firefighter in 1987, working with CAL FIRE's Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit. Three years later, he was promoted to fire apparatus engineer, a role he would serve in until his death in 2014. Throughout his nearly 15-year career in the fire service, Stephen bravely protected the people and property of the state of California. Outside of firefighting, he loved attending rodeos and traveling. Stephen is survived by his wife, Annette, his father and his two brothers. Stephen died of a job-related heart attack at the age of 53.

**STEPHEN G. LLOYD**  
Fire Captain, CAL FIRE  
May 26, 2014

Stephen G. Lloyd began his fire service career in 1981 when he was hired as a seasonal firefighter with CAL FIRE's Amador-El Dorado Unit. By 1990, he had risen to the rank of captain, a position he would hold until his retirement in 2011. Over the course of his career, Stephen was known for always being out in front with his crew, taking great joy in his work and constantly working to get the job done. He loved doing anything that would serve both his community and country, evidenced by his service with the United States Marine Corps in the Vietnam War. In addition to his work ethic, Stephen was also known for his strong faith and was a volunteer chaplain for Firefighters for Christ. Stephen is survived by his wife, Lynnette, his two children and three stepchildren. He died in 2014 due to job-related lung cancer at the age of 63.

**GEOFFREY CRAIG HUNT**  
Firefighter Pilot, CAL FIRE  
October 7, 2014

Geoffrey Craig Hunt, better known as Craig, began his aviation career as a lieutenant commander in the United States Navy, flying P-3 Orions for nearly two decades. From there, Craig would go on to become a firefighter pilot, providing support for CAL FIRE ground teams for 13 years. Before his career in the skies, Craig was an Eagle Scout and was named the 1970 Male Athlete of the Year in western North Carolina. He held a B.S. from Wittenberg University, an M.S. from the University of California Santa Cruz and an MBA from the University of Southern California. He will be forever missed as a loving husband, father, brother, educator and friend. Craig is survived by his wife, Sally, and their two daughters. Craig was killed in a plane crash at the age of 63 while battling a wildfire in Yosemite National Park.
NORMAN R. NELSON  
Fire Captain, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department  
December 4, 2014

Drawn to the fire service by his desire to help others, Norman “Rick” Nelson began his career with the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department in 1984. By 2005, he had risen to the rank of captain, a testament to his nature as a hard worker and born leader. Rick loved the fire service, and over the course of his 27-year career would say that he “never worked a day in his life.” In his free time, Rick loved athletics, games, parties, dancing, singing and laughing. He also completed the 1985 Ironman World Championship in Kona, HI. He is survived by his wife, Cherie, his two stepsons and his daughter. Rick died in 2014 after a three-year battle with kidney and colon cancer at the age of 61.

TRACY ROBERT CHIMENTI  
Fire Captain, Roseville Fire Department  
December 27, 2014

Tracy Robert Chimenti first fell in love with the fire service at the age of 17, serving on a student fire crew over the summer. He began his professional career in Citrus Heights before joining the Roseville Fire Department in 1982, dedicating 28 years to the community and rising to the rank of captain before retiring in 2010. Tracy was known for his dedication to the job and a strong desire to help others, evidenced by a commendation he received after performing CPR on a patient for more than an hour and a half while traveling by train from California to Washington. He was an avid fisherman and outdoorsman and served as a Boy Scout leader in his free time. Tracy is survived by his wife, Karen, and their son. He died in 2014 due to complications from job-related pancreatic cancer at the age of 54.

THOMAS EUSTACE JOHN  
Fire Captain, Salinas Fire Department  
January 29, 2015

After his service in the military during the Vietnam War, Thomas “TJ” John joined the Salinas Fire Department and began his nearly 30-year career protecting the same community in which he was born and raised. During his service, Thomas’ mechanical aptitude quickly became apparent to management and he was promoted to head of the maintenance division for the department’s growing apparatus fleet. Outside of the fire house, Thomas was an avid drag racer and was still competing at the age of 72, just before his death. He is survived by his wife, Patsy, and their five children. He died in 2015 due to complications from a job-related respiratory disease at the age of 72.
Inspired by his brother Paul who was a firefighter with the City of Berkeley, Richard John Voisey began his fire service career as a volunteer with the City of Pinole at the age of 18. He was later hired by the department after working as a firefighter on the Alameda Naval Air Base for a year. Rich quickly rose to the rank of captain and was honored as Pinole’s “Firefighter of the Year” three times over the course of his career. Rich also spent two terms as vice president of the United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County, Local 1230, working tirelessly to improve wages, training and working conditions for its members. Rich will be remembered as a family man who loved fly fishing, attending his kid’s sporting events and Raiders’ games. Rich is survived by his wife, Nancy, their two daughters and son. He died in 2015 after a battle with occupational brain cancer at the age of 54.
Falling Star

Silence comes
in waves
it drowns me

I smile
Remembering
your words

It hurts

Eyes blur
You’re too far
So I close them
And go to where you are ...

Make a wish on a falling star
Take me to the one where you are
And we’ll shine
And we’ll shine

Standing drawing lines painting pictures in the stars

Pretending you’re still here
Bending time
It’s a devastating art

I’ll keep reaching
’Til I touch them
and find the one
Where we are

Still shining
Holding hands in the dark

Make a wish on a falling star
Take me to the one where you are
And we’ll shine
And we’ll shine

Reaching out to where you are
Holding onto Miracles
Wishing on a Falling Star
Loving Everything
That you are
You still are

Make a wish on a falling star
Take me to the one where you are
And we’ll shine
And we’ll shine

Original song created for the 12th Annual California Firefighters Memorial
Lyrics by Mela Lee • Music by Mela Lee & Alexander Burke (Magnolia Memoir)
Magnolia Memoir Music BMI • Copyright 2014

Tax-deductible contributions for the California Firefighters Memorial can be made through California Professional Firefighters’ 501c3 nonprofit organization, the California Fire Foundation.