CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL
OCTOBER 15 • 2016 • CAPITOL PARK
As president of California Professional Firefighters and chair of the California Fire Foundation, it is my honor and privilege to welcome you to the California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony, our annual tribute to the men and women who have given their lives in service to the state of California.

This year, we come together to remember 29 brave men, each of whom served with bravery and distinction, undoubtedly impacting countless lives over the course of their respective careers. Today, these heroes will join the nearly 1,300 brothers and sisters who have done the same since California first became a state.

As we gather to honor their memories, we are once again reminded of the ever-present dangers of our profession. Across the state, wildfires have burned with unprecedented fervor, causing millions of dollars in damage and threatening the lives of thousands.

As these fires have burned, thousands of California’s first responders have answered the call, donning their turnouts and heading out to protect those that need it most. On each and every one of these calls, these men and women head out knowing that their return is not guaranteed, and yet they go anyway.

Today’s special service 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.

We also come together to recognize the significant sacrifices made by the families these brave men have left behind. For them, and for the people of our state, we will etch the names of their loved ones into this proud Memorial.

Brothers and sisters, we will never forget you.

Lou Paulson
President, California Professional Firefighters
Chair, California Fire Foundation
PATRICK LEE “PAT” CARPENTER
Battalion Chief, CAL FIRE
May 11, 1988

Patrick Lee Carpenter was drawn to the fire service early in life, joining the California Division of Forestry as a firefighter in the late 1970s. As an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting, fishing, skiing and horseback riding, a career as a firefighter allowed Patrick the opportunity to work, and protect, the natural landscape that he so loved. Just five months before his death, he received the last of several promotions within the fire service, reaching the rank of battalion chief. Patrick is survived by his wife, Marcha. He died in 1988 as a result of job-related cancer.

ROBERT ALAN LEE
Battalion Chief, CAL FIRE
June 1, 2002

From a young age, Robert Alan Lee knew he wanted to become a firefighter. While in his early 20s, he took the first step toward realizing the dream he had held since childhood by becoming a seasonal firefighter with CAL FIRE. Robert would go on to spend the majority of his career as a captain with CAL FIRE’s Santa Clara Unit, and was promoted to the rank of battalion chief with the San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit prior to his retirement. Outside of work, he enjoyed flying, playing golf, spending time on the lake and, most of all, spending time with his family. Robert died in 2002 after suffering a job-related heart attack.

DONALD GLENN COOPER
Captain, CAL FIRE
October 26, 2004

Donald Glenn Cooper fell in love with the fire service at a young age, getting his first taste of the profession during a summer work program after high school with the California Division of Forestry. Beginning his career as a seasonal firefighter, Donald worked his way through the ranks and eventually reached the rank of captain. In his free time, he enjoyed spending time with his family, competing in fast-pitch softball, following NASCAR and driving in demolition derbies. Donald died in 2004 as a result of job-related lung cancer.
JACK YOUNG  
Captain, CAL FIRE  
March 23, 2008

Jack Young spent more than three decades of his life in service to the state of California through his role as a firefighter, and later as a crew captain, with CAL FIRE. Before his retirement in 2002, Jack bravely served the residents of Fresno, Humboldt, and Tuolumne counties. He was a devout Christian, always being the first to want to lend a helping hand to those in need. Those who knew him best remember Jack as an honest, generous, strong, outgoing and deeply caring man. He is survived by his wife, Rene, his sons, Paul and John, his two daughters-in-law and his grandchildren. Jack died in 2008 following a battle with job-related leukemia.

GARY M. STAMEISEN  
Firefighter-Paramedic, Los Angeles City Fire Department  
December 4, 2010

Gary Stameisen, Stamy to his friends, joined the Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1977, following his service in the United States Air Force. For 32 years, Gary served with honor and distinction, receiving a special commendation for bravery in 1983. Those who knew him best, remember him as an incredible father, husband, son, brother and friend. Gary lived each day to the fullest, and upon his retirement, chased his dream of sailing around the world. He is survived by his wife, Lorri, his children, Corey and Trevor, his stepson, Kevin, his mother, Audrey and his brother, Alan. Gary died in 2010 following a battle with job-related cancer.

DAVID GARRETT LEZCHUK  
Engineer, CAL FIRE  
May 11, 2011

To those that knew him best, David Garrett Lezchuk will be remembered as a loving and devoted son, husband, brother and father. To the many lives he touched during his career as a firefighter, he will be remembered as a hero. David began his career with CAL FIRE by graduating at the top of his academy class. He would continue on this path of excellence over the course of his career, qualifying as an expert in cliff rescue and becoming a member of the department’s helicopter engine unit. David died in 2011 following a battle with job-related cancer.
GREG HENNESSEY
Engineer, Orange County Fire Authority
January 20, 2014

Greg Hennessey began his fire service career as a volunteer firefighter in Freeport, New York. After relocating to Southern California, he entered the profession full time, joining the ranks of the Orange County Fire Department in 1990. Outside of the fire house, Greg was known as a loving father and husband, an avid Ford Mustang fan and collector, a theater tech volunteer and an active mentor within the Boy Scouts of America. He is survived by his wife Deanna and their two sons, Ryan and Brandon. Greg died in 2014 after suffering a job-related heart attack.

JOHN G. MURPHY
Lieutenant, San Francisco Fire Department
January 28, 2014

John G. Murphy joined the San Francisco Fire Department in 1989 and went on to serve the department with honor and distinction for more than 24 years. John's leadership ability saw him rise to the rank of lieutenant. In this position, he took great pleasure in seeing things done right and ensuring that everyone went home in the morning. John approached his job with a great passion, going out of his way to mentor new firefighters. He is survived by his wife, Kim, and their two children, Marshall and Lauren. John died in 2014 following a battle with job-related cancer.

CLYDE M. WATARAI
Firefighter, San Francisco Fire Department
February 5, 2014

Clyde M. Watarai joined the San Francisco Fire Department in 1998 at the encouragement of his firefighter friends and would go on to serve the public with honor and distinction for more than 15 years. For much of his career, he served at San Francisco International Airport's Station One, building friendships and camaraderie that he would cherish for life. Always eager for adventure, Clyde took multiple motorcycle trips with friends on his Harley Davidson and once made the trek to Everest Base Camp. He is survived by his wife, Allison, and son, Evan. Clyde died in 2014 after a battle with job-related cancer.
GEORGE ALAN PEARCE
Battalion Chief, Newport Beach Fire Department
December 28, 2014

George Alan Pearce was hired by the Newport Beach Fire Department in 1973, and would go on to bravely serve the residents of that community for more than three decades. Over the course of his career, George rose to the rank of battalion chief, and was also an instrumental member of the department’s HazMat team. Outside of the firehouse, he loved to be active, enjoying golf, skiing, softball, jeepng, pickleball and traveling. He is survived by his wife, Jackie, their four stepchildren and their eight grandchildren. George died in 2014 following a battle with job-related cancer.

FRANCK W. TREMAINE
Captain, Jackson Fire Department
January 10, 2015

Franck W. Tremaine began his fire service career as a volunteer at the age of 18, and would spend the next 40 years devoting himself to the profession and the community he was sworn to protect. Over the course of his career, Franck received many accommodations and accolades, including “Firefighter of the Year” awards in 1985, 2002 and 2008. His long record of service was instrumental in shaping the careers of many young and aspiring firefighters. Franck was incredibly devoted to his family, taking every opportunity to entertain and care for the ones he loved. He is survived by his wife, Geneva, and their children, Sarah and Kyle. Franck died in 2015 after suffering a job-related heart attack.

DANIEL JOHN CORRIGAN
Firefighter, Santa Barbara City Fire Department
March 4, 2015

The son of a firefighter, Daniel Corrigan sought to follow in the footsteps of his father, retired Alameda County firefighter John Corrigan. He began his fire service career in 2007, when he joined the Fresno Fire Department. In 2013, he transferred to the Santa Barbara City Fire Department, where he would serve bravely for the next two years. Over the course of his career, he was a member of the department’s urban search and rescue team and honor guard. Daniel worked to mentor future firefighters through his involvement with the explorer program. He is survived by his partner, Sarah, and his sons, Jack and Jay. He died in 2015 after suffering a job-related heart attack.
LARRY EDWARD GRAFFT  
Assistant Chief, CAL FIRE  
March 9, 2015

Larry Edward Grafft began his career with CAL FIRE as a seasonal firefighter in 1983, and would go on to build a fire service career that spanned three decades. Over the course of his career, he was known for his tireless work ethic, integrity and his strong support and mentoring of his fellow employees. In 1998, he became a member of the Mendocino County SWAT team, a position he would hold for the next 15 years. Outside of work, Larry enjoyed hunting, fishing and snowboarding. He is survived by his wife Valarie, son Kristopher, mother Jeanette, sister Lisa and nephews, Richard and Anthony. Larry died in 2015 following a battle with job-related cancer.

DAVID E. AMITUANAI  
Firefighter, San Francisco Fire Department  
April 12, 2015

David E. Amituanai joined the San Francisco Fire Department in 1993 and would go on to serve his community bravely for more than two decades. David loved people and devoted himself to helping others, traits that made him an ideal candidate for a career in the fire service. He was honored to serve on the San Francisco Firefighters’ Cancer Prevention Foundation following his first bout with cancer. Outside of the firehouse, he delighted in being a part of a local paddling crew of whom he came to embrace as family. He is survived by his sisters, Sina, Elaine and Neva. David died in 2015 following a battle with job-related cancer.

STEVEN THOMAS BROSIG  
Firefighter, Aptos-La Selva Fire Protection District  
April 20, 2015

Steven Thomas Brosig spent more than 25 years bravely serving the Aptos-La Selva Fire Protection District. Over the course of his career, his colleagues would note that his calm, quiet confidence made him a both compassionate and courageous firefighter and paramedic. In 2015, Steve was honored as the district’s firefighter of the year. Outside of firefighting, he had a great love for the remote desert environment, solitude and his family. Steven is survived by his wife, Tracy, his daughter, Maya, sisters, Cynthia and Valerie, and his mother, Marcella. He died in 2015 after a battle with job-related cancer at the age of 57.
James Martin
Deputy Chief, Fremont Fire Department
July 24, 2015

James Martin embodied the finest qualities of both a man and a firefighter. He began his career with the Union City Fire Department in 1986, working his way up to the rank of captain before joining the Fremont Fire Department in 1994 via a department merger. In Fremont, Jim would continue climbing through the ranks, eventually serving as deputy fire chief. Throughout his decorated career, Jim held several leadership roles, including three terms as president of Fremont Firefighters, Local 1689. Outside of work, Jim was known to live life to the fullest, and loved spending time with his family and friends. Jim died in 2015 following a battle with job-related cancer.

Steven L. Robinson
Pilot-Firefighter, Los Angeles City Fire Department
August 9, 2015

Following in the footsteps of his father and brother, Steven L. Robinson joined the Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1986. Nine years later, Steven had earned a coveted position of aviation pilot within the department’s fire helicopter program, where he flew countless missions to keep the community safe. In March of 1998, Steven and his crew were rushing a critically injured 12-year-old child to the hospital, when the tail rotor of his helicopter disintegrated. While he was able to steer the helicopter away from homes on the ground, the resulting crash claimed the life of the patient and three Los Angeles City firefighters. Steven survived the crash, only to succumb to his long-term injuries in 2015. He is survived by his brother, Richard, and children, Brandon and Kyle.

Harvey Dean Herzberg
Fire Inspector, Redding Fire Department
August 25, 2015

Harvey Dean Herzberg, known as “Dean” to all, began his career as a seasonal firefighter with the Redding Fire Department in 1976, and was hired full time in 1986. In 1990, he was promoted to engineer and in 1998, reclassified to fire inspector in the Redding Fire Prevention Bureau, a position he held until his retirement in 2013. Outside of work, his interests included camping, boating, rescuing and rehabilitating displaced and homeless golden retrievers as a volunteer, traveling, and wine tasting. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl. Dean died in 2015 following a 10-month battle with job-related cancer.
MARK ALLEN DOMINGUE
Engineer, CAL FIRE
September 13, 2015

Following his eight years of service in the United States Navy, Mark Allen Domingue launched his fire service career as a volunteer with the Atwood and Merced County Fire Departments in 1997. In 2001, he was hired full time by the Atwood Fire Department and would join CAL FIRE as a fire apparatus engineer in 2008. Outside of work, he was a fierce competitor, enjoying baseball, golf, bowling, pool, golf and ping pong. He is survived by his wife, Kimberley, and their children. Mark died in 2015 as a result of job-related cancer and heart disease.

HECTOR MAGALLANES
Firefighter Specialist, Los Angeles County Fire Department
September 18, 2015

Hector Magallanes joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department in 1986 and would spend nearly 30 years keeping the public safe through his role as a firefighter specialist. Those that knew him best will remember him as a compassionate man and an amazing husband, father and friend. In his spare time, Hector was involved in a mentorship program for troubled teens, sharing wisdom and experiences in ways that let these young men know that a better life was within reach. He is survived by his wife, Jessie, and his children, Sarah, Jessica, Jonathan and Damian. Hector died in 2015 following a battle with job-related cancer.

JOSEPH PETER (JOJO) SAVAS
Firefighter Specialist, Los Angeles County Fire Department
September 22, 2015

Joseph P. Savas, better known as “JoJo,” joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department in 1998, following five years of service with the United States Air Force. Those who knew him best remember Joseph as an incredible husband, father and son. He was hardworking, loving, attentive and determined, traits that served him well during his 27-year fire service career. He is also remembered for his excellent sense of humor, and the ability to make others crack a smile, even during the hard times. He is survived by his wife, Shelly, and their children, Jacob and Hannah. Joseph died in 2015 following a battle with job-related cancer.
BARRY ANDREW REZAC  
Firefighter, CAL FIRE  
September 27, 2015

Barry Andrew Rezac was born in Little Rock, Arkansas but relocated to Riverside, California early in life. After graduating from high school, Barry joined the Rubidoux Community Services District Fire Department, which would become part of the CAL FIRE Riverside County Fire Department roughly a decade later. Outside of the fire house, Barry was an avid horseman. He is survived by his wife, Sandra, his mother, Sydney, his children, Joshua, Jennifer and Rachel, his sister, Gina and his brother, Allan. Barry died in 2015 after suffering a job-related heart attack.

RICHARD B. FAUST  
Firefighter-Paramedic, San Francisco Fire Department  
October 14, 2015

For 23 years, Richard B. Faust proudly served the San Francisco Fire Department, exemplifying a commitment to the service of others over the course of his career. In addition to his service to the department, Richard sought to give back to his community through his involvement with the Pacifica School District Board of Trustees, as well as his role on San Mateo County’s groundbreaking LGBTQ Commission, the first of its kind in the state. He leaves behind his husband, Richard Clark, and their son, Raphael. Richard died in 2015 following a battle with job-related cancer.

RICK GINO ZENI  
Firefighter, Los Angeles County Fire Department  
October 17, 2015

Rick Gino Zeni began his career in public service as a Ventura County lifeguard, before transitioning to the fire service at the age of 22. For the next 28 years, Rick would dedicate his life to the profession, serving with the Santa Paula Fire Department, the Ventura Federal Fire Department and the Los Angeles County Fire Department, where he would spend the last 12 years of his career. He is remembered for his humor, courage and kindness, as well as his love of cooking, swimming and, of course, surfing. He is survived by his wife, Sandra, and their two sons, Dane and Trace. Rick died in 2015 after suffering a job-related heart attack.
SCOTT DOUGLAS CARROLL  
Captain, Oxnard Fire Department  
November 30, 2015

The son of a firefighter, Scott Douglas Carroll knew from a young age that he wanted to follow in his father’s footsteps. He began his career as a seasonal firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service. He would then go on to serve as a Federal Firefighter in Ventura County, before joining the Oxnard Fire Department, where he would serve with honor and distinction for 19 years. An avid fan of both sports and traveling, Scott loved to follow his Dodgers and Rams around the country. He is survived by his wife, Tracy, his children, Rylee and Mike, and two grandchildren. Scott died in 2015 after suffering a job-related brain aneurysm.

LAUIFI FUALELEI SEUMAALA  
Firefighter, San Francisco Fire Department  
December 25, 2015

Lauifi Fualelei Seumaala began his career with the San Francisco Fire Department in 1987, and would go on to serve both his department and community for the next 28 years. Known as “Big Daddy Lau,” he is remembered as a God-fearing man who loved to spoil his wife, cherish his children and enjoy the company of his church family. Always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need, he will be remembered as a blessing that will never fade in the lives of those he knew. He is survived by his wife, Ululau, and their four children. Lauifi died in 2015 after suffering a job-related heart attack.

JOHNNY MINSOO CHUN  
Firefighter, CAL FIRE  
February 1, 2016

Johnny Minsoo Chun began his fire service career as a volunteer firefighter for the Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District, before eventually joining CAL FIRE on a full time basis. His love for the job, attention to detail and dependability made him an indispensable member of his crew, whether they were called upon for an ocean rescue, to fight a fire or respond to a medical emergency. Johnny will be remembered for his sense of humor, as well as his love of camping, shooting, cooking and going to the races. He is survived by his wife, Sun, and their children. Johnny died in 2016 following a battle with job-related cancer.
PHIL EWERT
Captain, National City Fire Department
March 28, 2016

After serving his country in Vietnam, Phil Ewert was hired by the National City Fire Department in 1970. Over the course of his 33-year career with the department, he served as a firefighter, engineer and captain. He was a tremendous leader, not only as a fire captain, but also as a union president. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, spending every fall hunting in Wyoming, and many summers fishing in the Sea of Cortez with family and friends. Phil was a devoted husband, father and grandfather who loved his family more than life. He is survived by his wife, Eileen, his son, Jeffrey, daughters, Jennifer and Heather, and seven grandchildren. He died in 2016 after succumbing to the effects of job-related cancer.

ARTHUR MONROE KRUCKMAN
Captain, CAL FIRE
April 18, 2016

Arthur Monroe Kruckman began his fire service career in 1963 with the Sonoma and Mendocino Ranger Units of CAL FIRE. Over the course of his career, he rose through the ranks, eventually becoming a captain and fire crew supervisor. To those who knew him best, Art will be remembered as a cool-headed, dedicated, caring firefighter who eventually gave his life to protect the citizens of California. He loved the outdoors, spending time camping, traveling and working on his twenty acres in northern Idaho. Art is survived by his wife of 51 years, Jean, and their daughter and son. He died in 2016 after a battle with job-related cancer.
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
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)
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