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 those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the state of California.

Every year for the past 15 years, we have joined together at this hallowed spot to honor our state’s heroes. These men and women put their lives on the line every time they answer a call. Whether they were lost battling flames or as the result of a battle with a job-related illness, each of the 31 men and women we are gathered to honor today risked it all for all of us.

As we gather here to remember our fallen, we do so against the backdrop of the ever-present dangers inherent to the fire service. Amid another historically catastrophic fire season, which has threatened life and property throughout the state, we commend the selfless nature of the men and women on the front lines of these fires that every year grow more severe.

As these fires have continued to engulf our state, thousands of California’s first responders have answered the call, heading out to offer protection to those who need it most. These men and women set out on every call knowing in the back of their minds that their return is not guaranteed. Regardless, they go out and give their all.

This special tribute, in addition to honoring the memory of those we have lost, serves to commend those who every day serve their state as firefighters on their determination and commitment to protecting those in their communities.

Lastly, we cannot forget the significant sacrifices made by the families that these brave men and women have left behind. For them, and for all of the people of our state, we etch the names of these courageous heroes 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
Los Angeles City Fire Department Honor Guard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Lew Stone, Secretary-Treasurer, California Professional Firefighters

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Dennis Rodriguez, Firefighter Paramedic, Los Angeles City Fire Department

INVOCATION
Father Jayson Landeza, Chaplain, Oakland Fire Department

WELCOME
Lou Paulson, President, California Professional Firefighters

“YOU’LL NEVER WALK ALONE”
UC Davis A Cappella Group

ON BEHALF OF CALIFORNIA
The Honorable Xavier Becerra, California Attorney General

REMEMBERING A FELLOW FIREFIGHTER
Dave Clark, Firefighter Paramedic, Ventura County Fire Department

“ANGEL”
Bri Cauz

FLAG PRESENTATION TO FAMILIES
Mark A. Hartwig, President Elect, California Fire Chiefs Association

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

THE RELEASE OF DOVES

RECESSIONAL
LEONARD NATHAN WINSLOW
Firefighter, Eureka Fire Department
December 18, 1934

Leonard Nathan Winslow’s desire to become a firefighter began when he was a young boy. Leonard grew up near the firehouse and spent as much time there as he could, earning himself the title of “firehouse mascot” while he was still a child. When Leonard came of age, he became a volunteer firefighter while he also worked as the electrician for the City of Eureka. In addition to fighting fires, it was Leonard’s job to ride to fires and turn off the electricity at the site. Leonard lost his life at the young age of 23 while in route to a fire, when the truck on which he was riding was struck by another vehicle.

GEORGE DAVIS
Captain, Eureka Fire Department
November 17, 1947

Captain George “Pudgy” Davis was a career firefighter with the Eureka Fire Department and the first paid fireman in the City of Eureka. George began his career as a hose man and eventually worked his way up to captain. George is credited with starting the annual Eureka Fire Department toy drive, which has been ongoing since the 1920’s, and is the namesake of Eureka’s fireboat, The “Pudgy” Davis. Captain Davis passed away in 1947 after suffering from a series of paralytic strokes that followed a leg amputation necessitated by an injury sustained in the line of duty.

RAYMOND BERNARD SOMMA
Equipment Operator, Eureka Fire Department
September 10, 1961

A 38-year veteran of the fire service, Raymond Bernard Somma was described as “one of the best and most fearless men in his department.” Raymond served as a member of the Eureka Fire Department for the entirety of his career, working his way up through the ranks until eventually receiving an offer to promote to captain which he turned down in favor of his position as an Equipment Operator. An advocate for his fellow firefighters, Raymond became the first president of Eureka Firefighters, Local 652. When Raymond wasn’t on duty, he enjoyed woodworking, photography, fishing, camping and spending time with his family. Raymond left his shift ill in April of 1961 due to a heart condition that would eventually claim his life in September of that year. Raymond is survived by his granddaughter, Kathy.
ADOLPH OSS  
Lieutenant, Eureka Fire Department  
March 5, 1964

Adolph Oss was passionate about his career as a firefighter. He began as a volunteer with the Eureka Fire Department where he served for 16 years before moving on to become a career firefighter. His hard work and dedication to service lead him to climb the ranks of the department, eventually reaching the rank of lieutenant. He was considered by his fellow firefighters as one of the most valuable men on the team. Adolph instilled the qualities of a firefighter in his children, always teaching them to put family first, work hard, and be respectful to all. He died in 1964 after suffering from a series of multiple heart attacks while on shift. He is survived by his daughter, Edyth Marie Olsen.

ROBERT BROWN MCGILLIVRAY  
Engineer, Eureka Fire Department  
May 11, 1964

Robert “Smokey” McGillivray dreamed of being a firefighter since he was a child. He pursued his dream career in the fire service and eventually rose through the ranks to fire engineer, where he exemplified the finest qualities of a true firefighter. He received a 30-year commendation with the Eureka Fire Department and at the time of his death he was the department’s most senior member, having served a total of 36 years. Outside of work, he enjoyed fishing, traveling, and the San Francisco Giants. Robert died as a result of cardiac arrest in 1964.

DARWIN JOHN VARGAS  
Fire Captain, CAL FIRE  
August 5, 2006

Darwin John Vargas was an amazing son, brother, husband, father to his two daughters, step-father and grandpa to his four grandchildren. He loved to fight fires and began his career with the Turlock Rural Fire Department. In 1977, Darwin accepted a position with the California Department of Forestry (CDF), where he served Fresno and Kings County. Wanting to raise his daughter in the foothills, he accepted a position with CAL FIRE’s Amador - El Dorado Unit and served as captain of the Garden Valley Station, Growlersburg Conservation Camp and Pilot Hill Station. Darwin excelled in his duties and also served as Facility Unit Leader of CAL FIRE’s Incident Command Team Unit 7. Darwin loved his family, old cars and riding his Harley. Following his retirement, Darwin succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer. He is survived by his wife, Sonja, his sister Roberta, and his eight children, step-children and grandchildren.
FELIX MEDRANO
Firefighter, San Jose Fire Department
February 11, 2010
Felix Medrano’s career began with service to his country as a paramedic for the United States Air Force. After he was honorably discharged, Felix began working for the San Jose Fire Department, where he served for more than 28 years. Leading by example, both on calls and in the fire house, Felix was the type of firefighter that was a role model for others. During his service, Felix earned a commendation for his dedication to the USAR program, as well as the John A. McMillan Family Integrity and Trust Award. Outside of work, Felix enjoyed martial arts, sports, music and literature. In 2010, Felix succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer. He is survived by his wife, Belinda.

JACK SALOIS
Firefighter, San Jose Fire Department
November 27, 2010
A veteran of the Santa Clara County and San Jose Fire Departments, Jack Salois was adored by all who knew him. A loving husband, father of four, grandfather of 11 and great-grandfather of two, Jack was at his happiest when he was at home in the Villages looking out at the golf course with his family at his side. Jack served in the fire service for 36 years before retiring upon being diagnosed with job-related cancer, an illness to which he would later succumb. Jack is survived by his wife, Freda, and his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

TIMOTHY JOSEPH HULL
Engineer, Corona Fire Department
January 14, 2012
Timothy Joseph Hull was always happiest when he was helping others, which motivated him to pursue a career in the fire service. Tim spent 29 years with the Corona Fire Department, where he worked as a firefighter and engineer. Early in his career, Tim extended the reach of his help to include his fellow firefighters by becoming a lead contract negotiator. In this role, Tim was instrumental in securing excellent wages, hours and working conditions for those with whom he worked and for future generations. Tim’s hobbies included boating, fishing, camping and travelling in his motor home with his family. Tim died in 2012, succumbing to the effects of job-related cancer. He is survived by his wife, Diane.
WENDY A. CUMMINGS
Firefighter/Paramedic, Los Angeles Fire Department
June 5, 2015

Wendy A. Cummings began her career with the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1982 where she quickly developed a reputation for being an extremely competent, caring, compassionate and dedicated firefighter/paramedic. Wendy was a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team member, a group that sent her to New York on September 11th. There she served first responders by providing a listening ear, a compassionate touch, and a word of encouragement through counseling for the workers at Ground Zero. Wendy passed away in 2015 after a battle with job-related cancer. She is survived by her mother Winnie, her brothers Dan and Mark, and her sister Missy.

MICHAEL SCOTT HALLENBECK
Firefighter, USDA Forest Service
August 8, 2015

Michael Scott Hallenbeck was only 21 when he lost his life battling a fire in the very beginnings of his career as a firefighter. Michael grew up in Shingle Springs, California and enjoyed spending his time playing sports and skiing in the mountains, which he learned to do at the age of two. Michael trained and became a firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service’s Lake Tahoe unit, a job he was proud of, as he was the kind of person who would do anything to help someone else. Michael is survived by his parents, Kirby and Toni, and his sister, Jessica.

ANDREA JEAN GAXIOLA
Firefighter, San Diego Fire-Rescue
November 16, 2015

Andrea Jean Gaxiola was seen by her fellow firefighters as someone who embodied the finest qualities of a true firefighter. Andrea served the citizens of San Diego with honor and distinction for nearly 21 years, joining the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department in October of 1990, and advancing to Firefighter II the following year. Despite being diagnosed with job-related cancer in 2009, Andrea chose not to retire until 2012. Andrea always did what she could to help others, her mottos being “I will take care of that,” or “How can I help?” Andrea passed away after succumbing to the effects of her job-related cancer in 2015. She is survived by her brother, niece and nephew.
REGUBERTO J. LANDEROS  
Fire Chief, Fillmore Fire Department  
January 7, 2016

Reguberto “Rigo” Landeros’ childhood dream was to join the fire service. He started working as a part-time volunteer firefighter in Fillmore in 1991, after completing a reserve firefighter academy. Reguberto’s love for his hometown of Fillmore and the fire service led him to climb the ranks and become Fillmore’s fire chief in 2009, a position in which he served with honor and distinction until his death in 2016. Reguberto never failed to put the needs of others before his own. The only thing above Reguberto’s love for the fire service and his community was the love he had for his family. He is survived by his wife, Laura, and his children, Christina, Daniel and David.

DARRAYLE B. PROSSER  
Captain, Los Angeles Fire Department  
March 2, 2016

Darrayle B. Prosser began his career with the Los Angeles Fire Department at the age of 23. Over the course of his 32 years of service with the LAFD, Darrayle worked everywhere in Los Angeles from the San Fernando Valley to the San Pedro Harbor, including the Downtown and South-Central areas. Darrayle worked his way up through the ranks and was promoted to captain, a position he held for 12 years. Above all, Darrayle loved his family, and when he wasn't working he enjoyed spending his time camping, fishing, skiing, cooking and traveling with them. Darrayle died in 2016 following a battle with job-related cancer. He is survived by his wife, Karen.

DENISE A. ELARMS  
Firefighter, San Francisco Fire Department  
April 14, 2016

Denise A. Elarms was born in San Francisco and received a bachelor’s degree in Sociology from San Jose State University, later attending the University of the District of Columbia. Following her post-graduate education, Denise worked for the Mayor in Washington D.C. before moving back to San Francisco where she found her calling and joined the San Francisco Fire Department. Denise served proudly as a member of SFFD for 12 years until she was forced to retire due to an ongoing battle with job-related cancer. Denise was an avid member of the breast cancer support organization, Carrie’s Touch, and fought for legislation that would provide coverage and benefits to firefighters with cancer. Denise succumbed to the effects of cancer in 2016 and is survived by her mother, Catherine, and her sister, Beverly.
GERALD FRANCIS HARTMAN  
Fire Chief, Marysville Fire Department  
May 19, 2016

Gerald “Jerry” Hartman grew up across the street from the Live Oak Fire Department, where he watched his father serve as a volunteer assistant chief. He joined the department as a cadet and later was hired on as a full-time firefighter. Jerry worked in Live Oak for several years before being hired by the Marysville Fire Department, where he spent most of his career. During his 20 years with Marysville, Jerry moved up through the ranks and was promoted to chief. Jerry went on to work for American Canyon and Shelter Cove, an area he enjoyed due to his love of fishing. Jerry passed away in May 2016 due to causes associated with job-related heart disease. He is survived by his son and grandson, both of whom are full-time firefighters, carrying on their family’s tradition.

RYAN STEWART OSLER  
Engineer, Ventura County Fire Department  
September 21, 2016

Ryan Stewart Osler began his career in fire service as part of the hand crew before being hired as a firefighter and later being promoted to Engineer. Known affectionately as “Otter” by those who he worked with, Ryan was a firm believer in doing everything above 100 percent which was reflected by his work ethic and strong reputation within the department. He served the Ventura County Fire Department for 18 years before passing away. Ryan died in a line of duty accident in 2016 while assigned to the Canyon Fire in Santa Barbara County. He is survived by his wife of 16 years, Jennifer, their two children, Amanda and Brandon; his mother, Cherie, and sisters Julie Collier and Jeanine Osler.

CHRISTOPHER L. CUZYNSKI  
Captain, San Gabriel Fire Department  
October 28, 2016

Christopher “Cuz” Cuzynski began his career as an Oak Grove Hot Shot for the US Forest Service, eventually moving to the Marine Corps Air Station Fire Department in Tustin and ultimately being hired as a firefighter for the San Gabriel Fire Department, where he served 38 years moving through the ranks to Captain. Whether you needed your vehicle fixed, help with contract negotiations or just someone to lend an ear, you could always count on Chris. His passions included public service, traveling and anything to do with cars. Chris passed away in 2016 after suffering from a descending aortic aneurysm. His family was his greatest source of joy, and he is survived by his wife of 32 years, Suzie, and his children Carolynn and Joseph, both of whom followed him into public service.
PATRICK SILAS CAMPBELL  
Firefighter, Ventura County Federal Fire Department  
November 13, 2016

A member of the fire service for more than 33 years, Patrick Silas Campbell enjoyed his work as a firefighter above all else. Patrick worked for a number of departments in a variety of roles, including as an air rescue firefighter, a captain and a Hazmat specialist. Among his many achievements, Patrick was named Ventura County’s firefighter of the year during his time serving the department. Patrick was known for having a fearless approach to firefighting, the likes of which his fellow firefighters said was extraordinary in this day and age. When Patrick wasn’t working, he enjoyed spending quality time with his friends and family and hunting wild boar in the mountains. Patrick died of lung cancer caused by job-related toxic exposure. He is survived by his wife, Janet, his daughters, Julie, Karen, Jessica, and Cynthia, his three sons-in-law, and his granddaughter, Elizabeth.

MICHAEL P. REDDY  
Captain, Los Angeles Fire Department  
November 17, 2016

Michael P. Reddy began his career in the fire service as a firefighter for the City of Los Angeles. During his 16 years of service, Michael moved through the ranks to Inspector, where he helped to establish the department’s first-ever Community Risk Reduction Unit. In this role, Michael’s work involved solving the City’s most pressing issues regarding fire safety and working with neighborhoods and other local departments to provide education regarding fire safety and prevention. In 2016, Michael scored in the top 30 on the LA City fire captain exam, thus earning him a posthumous promotion to captain in 2017. Michael enjoyed watching and playing basketball as well as coaching his son’s sports teams. Michael died of job-related cancer in 2016 and is survived by his wife, Kim, his son, Brent, and two daughters, Tyara and Grace.

MICHAEL M. MOSES  
Captain, Santa Barbara City Fire Department  
December 6, 2016

Michael M. Moses’ dedication to public service began in 1977 when he became a lifeguard for Los Angeles County. He went on to join the Santa Barbara City Fire Department in 1984, where he worked through the ranks and eventually was promoted to ladder truck captain. Inspired by his early experience as a lifeguard, Michael formed and trained the first United States Lifesaving Association-certified Ocean Rescue Team for the Santa Barbara City Fire Department. Michael is remembered by those who knew him for his love of the ocean and the enjoyment he received from planting seeds and watching them grow. Michael died in 2016 as a result of job-related cancer. He is survived by his wife, Patricia.
Michael L. Heffner
Battalion Chief, Kern County Fire Department
December 17, 2016

Michael L. Heffner began his career in the fire service with the United States Air Force as a firefighter at Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California. Following his service at Edwards, Michael was hired on as a firefighter with the Kern County Fire Department, where he worked his way up to battalion chief and earned many awards and recognitions for his hard work along the way. After 28 years with the department, Michael retired in December 2013. Michael was well known for being very straightforward and caring for those working with him, as well as the community he served for the majority of his career. He is survived by his sons, Dustin and Zachary, his wife, Janie, his father, Dave, and his siblings, Russ and Julie.

Richard D. Shaft
Captain, Montebello Fire Department
January 13, 2017

Richard D. Shaft always looked up to his older brothers. He followed their paths of public service and became a firefighter, a profession that he saw as both rewarding and respected. Of his 31 years of service, he spent many years in the mechanics program, Urban Search and Rescue, and Los Angeles County Rescue. Richard loved the fire service and was always seen with a smile on his face. His fellow firefighters viewed him as a role model and loyal friend. Outside of work, Richard enjoyed mentoring troubled youth, golfing, boating, skiing, and swimming in the ocean. Richard put his family above all else, and is survived by his wife, Amy, daughter, Emily, and son, James. He died on January 13th, 2017 after succumbing to the effects of job-related brain cancer.

Randy Albert Brunet
Captain, Corona Fire Department
January 28, 2017

Randy Albert Brunet was known to always be looking out for others. He began his career in the fire service as an apprentice for the City of Corona in 1987 and served the department for nearly 25 years. Working up the ranks and becoming a captain, Randy also served as a contract negotiator and vice president of Corona Firefighters Local 3757 for the majority of his career. When he wasn’t working, Randy spent his time on hobbies, such as carpentry, boating, and collecting, repairing and playing old pinball machines. Randy died in 2017 following a battle with job-related cancer. He is survived by his wife, Madalynne, and his daughter, Jennifer.
SARA FELIX THOMAS
Firefighter, CAL FIRE
January 31, 2017

Sara Felix Thomas began her career with the fire service in 2000 as a seasonal firefighter for the CAL FIRE Monte Vista unit, where she served until 2002 when she transferred to the San Benito-Monterey unit. Sara worked for the San Benito-Monterey and Riverside units simultaneously before accepting a permanent firefighter position with the Riverside unit. Sara spent the majority of her career serving the citizens of the Coachella Valley and was last assigned to fire station 80 in North Indio. In January 2017, Sara succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer. She is survived by her husband, Isaac, and their two daughters, Olivia and Mirna.

JULIE ANNE FREEMAN
Fire Captain, CAL FIRE
March 5, 2017

Julie Anne Freeman was attracted to the family-like feeling of the fire service and was inspired to join by her desire to belong to something greater than herself. Julie began her career with CAL FIRE in 1997 and dedicated more than 20 years to fire service. As she progressed through her career, she worked for multiple different units across the state before achieving the rank of fire captain and serving her last eight years at the Carmel Hills Fire Station in Pebble Beach. In addition to her service as a firefighter, Julie served on the honor guard for many years and worked as a union chapter director. When she wasn’t working, Julie enjoyed traveling, spending time with her family and rooting for the San Francisco Giants. Julie died of job-related cancer in 2017 and is survived by her mother, Joan, and her siblings, Ron, David, Deborah, Robert and Donna.

JALAL EDDINE AINEB
Firefighter, San Francisco Fire Department
March 8, 2017

Jalal Eddine Aineb was a 12-year veteran of the San Francisco Fire Department who immigrated to the United States from Morocco in 1989. After moving to San Francisco, Jalal attended San Francisco State University for college and spent his time teaching children martial arts when he wasn’t in school. In 2005, his dream of becoming a firefighter came true when he became a proud member of the San Francisco Fire Department. Jalal is remembered by friends and fellow firefighters as someone who always did what he could to help out his immigrant community. He succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer in March, 2017. Jalal is survived by his wife, Atika, and his children, Malek and Mohammed.
TIMOTHY ALAN ANDERSON  
Captain, Sacramento County Airport Fire Department  
April 4, 2017

Timothy Alan Anderson's life was dedicated to the service of others. In 2002, he followed his father's footsteps into the military and fire service, enlisting in the United States Air Force. In 2004, Tim brought his Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting training to the Sacramento County Airport Fire Department where his vigor and hard work lead him to a position on FEMA Urban Search & Rescue Task Force-7 and promotion to fire captain. Tim's passion for fire and rescue was only surpassed by his love for his family. To his children, he was not only a father but a superhero, coach, and the funniest guy they ever met. He died in 2017 as a result of job-related cancer. He is survived by his three sons, Bryce, Mason, and Gavin, as well as his wife, Lacey.

JEROME ANTHONY BOYD  
Battalion Chief, Los Angeles Fire Department  
April 28, 2017

A 31-year veteran of the Los Angeles Fire Department, Jerome Anthony Boyd's desire to help others led him to a career in the fire service. While serving the City of Los Angeles, Jerome rose through the ranks to battalion chief and, at the time of his death, served as the Commander of the Public Safety Section. Jerome loved live music, roller skating and playing dominoes with his friends. In 2012, Jerome was honored by President Barack Obama for successfully ensuring the safe landing and takeoff of Air Force One. Jerome suffered from a medical emergency while on duty and passed away at the age of 55. Chief Boyd is survived by his wife, Caroline, and their children Cherrele, Jerome, Justin and Corey.

BRIAN D. MASSEY  
Engineer, Kern County Fire Department  
May 20, 2017

Brian D. Massey's career as a firefighter began in 1990 with the Taft Fire Department, where he remained as the department was absorbed by the Kern County Fire Department in 2007. Known for his job expertise, smile and skills in the firehouse kitchen, Brian was well regarded by those with whom he worked. Brian was a pitcher at West High School as well as Biola University and was hired by the Los Angeles Angels to throw in batting practice sessions before he joined the Taft Fire Department. Brian passed away in May after suffering from a significant medical event following a 48-hour shift. Brian is survived by his girlfriend of nine years, Glenna Hammond, and his three children, Brooke, Breanna and Brandon.
KELLY KA LAI WONG
Firefighter, Los Angeles Fire Department
June 5, 2017

Kelly Ka Lai Wong began working as a firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service in 2009, later becoming a Ruby Mountain Hot Shot before going through the academy for the Los Angeles Fire Department in 2015. Kelly graduated from the academy earning the award of “Top Academic Recruit” for finishing as the top academic performer in his class. He was a two-year veteran of the Los Angeles Fire Department assigned to Fire Station 92 in Rancho Park. Kelly was scheduled to transfer to Fire Station 9 serving Downtown Los Angeles, and was working at that station when he passed away in the line of duty. Kelly was an avid outdoorsman with a passion for travel and aviation, whose work ethic showed in both his studies and his work as a firefighter. Kelly is survived by his wife, Danielle.