CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL
SEPTEMBER 29 • 2018 • CAPITOL PARK
As President of California Professional Firefighters and Chair of the California Fire Foundation, it is my honor to welcome you to the California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony, our sixteenth annual tribute to those who have paid the ultimate price in service to our state.

This year, the names of 37 firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty will be forever etched alongside more than 1,300 of their brothers and sisters who have fallen since California first became a state. Every one of these courageous souls served with bravery and distinction, making a difference for those they faithfully served.

The events of the past year have reminded us more than ever of the dangers faced by the men and women who serve on the front lines. Since we last gathered, California has experienced the largest and second-largest wildfires in our history. Each wound up taking the life of one of our firefighter brothers. We were also sadly reminded this year that our firefighters are not exempt from the threat of random violence.

As they have in years past, California’s first responders answered the call to serve, in some cases by the thousands, struggling long hours against nature’s fury. Every time they answer a call, these men and women head out with the knowledge that their return is not guaranteed.

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 gather to offer comfort to the families of our fallen. Their sacrifice ... of a spouse, a parent or a son or daughter ... is heartbreaking and heroic.

For those who have fallen, their families and this proud profession, we are proud to enshrine their sacrifice into California history.

Brothers and sisters, we will never forget you.

Brian K. Rice
President, California Professional Firefighters
Chair, California Fire Foundation
JOSEPH EDWARD HUNTER  
Forest Ranger Chauffeur, CAL FIRE  
April 4, 1932

Joseph “Ed” Hunter joined the fire service in 1928 as a hoseman/fireman, following his service with the Army. His commitment to public service led him to become state forest ranger chauffeur at the San Jacinto Ranger Station. Eventually, Ed became the operator of the county's first apparatus, Fire Truck 73, and served as assistant to the county fire warden. On April 2, 1932, while responding to a house fire in West Riverside, Ed was struck by shrapnel from an exploding water tank and was rushed to a local hospital. On the morning of April 4, 1932, Ed succumbed to effects of his injuries. He was survived by his parents, his brother, and his sister.

LAWRENCE E. STEWART  
Hoseman, Lake Valley Fire Protection District  
July 5, 1964

Lawrence “Larry” Stewart began his career in service as a member of the U.S. Army, 34 Infantry. While in the Army, he served on the Armed Forces ski patrol under challenging weather conditions. He brought his discipline and spirit of service to the Lake Valley Fire Protection District where he served with honor. While responding to a fire incident, Larry's fire apparatus was involved in a collision, and he died in the line of duty due to injuries he sustained. He is survived by his wife Glenda, daughter Elisabeth, and brother Leroy.

JOHN ROBERT FRANCOIS  
Fire Captain, CAL FIRE  
April 1, 2013

Following his service as a Survival Instructor in the United States Air Force, John Robert Francois continued his career of service by joining the California Department of Forestry (CAL FIRE) in 1959 as a firefighter. John rose quickly through the ranks; by 1962, he was a fire captain at the Flynn Springs Station where he lived and served for 28 years. “Big John”, as he was affectionately referred to, brought to the fire service a calm courage, professional demeanor and was a well-respected presence in his community. In April of 2013, John succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Frances, his children, Tiffany and John, his daughter in law, Ann, and his granddaughters, Lauren, Aubrey and Gabrielle.
Brandon Mitchell Underhill, known as Mitch by family and friends, was a dedicated firefighter/paramedic with the Lake Valley Fire Protection District since 2005. He was among the first brave firefighters on the scene to battle the 2007 Angora wildfire. Outside of the fire service, Mitch was an avid all-mountain adventurer and was adored by his family. He passed away in 2013 and is survived by his wife, Sarah, and his children Mason James and Cedar Matthew.

John Tennant’s fire service career is marked by commitment to community, his state and the men and women on the front lines. He served for 28 years in the Pasadena Fire Department, 15 of those as president of Pasadena Firefighters, Local 809. He spent six years as California Professional Firefighters’ 2nd District Vice President. His service continued in 2000, when he was appointed as California State Fire Marshal. In addition to his roles in the fire service, John served as Chairman and Trustee of the Pasadena Fire and Police Retirement System. As state fire marshal, John helped secure $1 million in funding for the first firefighter-specific terrorism response training in the nation. John passed away due to job-related cancer. He is survived by his children, Shawna, Lisa and Brian and his brother Mark.

A former Naval pilot, Lt. Jerold Albert Bonner began his career in the fire service with CAL FIRE in April of 1999 as a pilot with the Santa Clara Unit, where he went on to serve the entirety of his firefighting career. Jerold served the citizens of California with honor and distinction for 16 years and served in rescue pilot roles with the Navy and the National Park Service. While on duty at the CAL FIRE Alma Helitack Base, Jerold succumbed to the effects of job-related heart disease. He is survived by his wife, Emma, his children, Christian and Elizabeth, his sister, Nancy, and his stepchildren, Billie, Kirk, Anthony and Jonnie.
DAVID LEE GASPERSO
Captain, Salinas Fire Department
December 9, 2015

David Lee Gasperson always wanted to follow in his older brother’s footsteps and become a firefighter. He fulfilled his dream and began a 26-year career with the Salinas Fire Department where he rose through the ranks to become captain and named Firefighter of the year for the Salinas Fire Department in 1989. In December of 2015, David succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer. He is survived by his son Steven, his stepson Michael, and his stepdaughter Cathleen.

ERIC JON SAMUELSON
Fire Captain, Corcoran State Prison Fire Department
December 22, 2015

Even before joining the fire service, Eric Jon Samuelson’s career was devoted to the service of others. Eric served in the U.S. Army as a medic for six years, then spent a decade as a first responder for the Santa Rosa Rancheria Indian reservation in Lemoore. Intrigued with the fire service, Eric became a volunteer firefighter with the City of Lemoore before being hired on as a fire captain with the Corcoran State Prison Fire Department. Eric loved riding motorcycles, spending time with his family and doing whatever he could to help others. In December of 2015, Eric passed away after suffering a job-related heart attack. He is survived by his wife Maria, his sons Eric, Mateo, and Harley, his stepson Juan, his grandson Aiden, and his mother Jane and his brother Brian.

WILLIAM STUTZMAN
Fire Captain, Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility Fire Department
March 10, 2016

William “Bill” Stutzman was made to be a firefighter. He had a spirit for service and a passion to help those in need. Bill’s career in service began with the United States Airforce and eventually into the fire service. He became a firefighter late in life for the California Department of Corrections and promoted through the ranks to captain. Bill was a consummate professional and his spirit for service extended to always lending a helping hand to his colleagues. Outside of the service Bill lived for his family, was an avid reader and enjoyed attending concerts with his wife. In March of 2016, Bill succumbed to the effects of job-related heart disease. He is survived by his wife, Donna, and their two sons, Spencer and Ariel.
PATRICK SEAN HIGGINS  
Firefighter Engineer, Vallejo Fire Department  
April 11, 2016

One of several firefighters in his family, Patrick Sean Higgins began his career in the fire service as a seasonal firefighter in Porterville, California before going on to spend over 30 years with the Vallejo Fire Department. While with Vallejo, Patrick was promoted to engineer and was a ladder-truck driver for most of his career. Outside of work, Patrick enjoyed spending time with friends and family, muscle cars and motorcycles. Patrick succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer. He is survived by his two sons, Patrick and Daniel, his sisters, Mary and Sheila, and his brothers, Mike, John and Jim.

NORMAN WILES  
Fire Captain, Pasadena Fire Department  
May 6, 2016

Norman Wiles loved the fire service since the day he joined in August of 1979. Norman served the citizens of Pasadena with honor and distinction for the entirety of his career and set the bar high for his peers and subordinates. Norman loved helping those who were new to the fire service and constantly was researching and implementing new industry training procedures to implement within his department. Outside of the fire service, Norman coached high-school football and baseball, and helped broadcast the games. He also served his church community as a deacon. Norman succumbed to job-related cancer. He is survived by his wife, Wendy, of 33 years and their children, Lacey and Matthew.

DAVID CAMPOS  
Battalion Chief, City of Riverside Fire Department  
July 14, 2016

David Campos served the community of Riverside with honor and distinction for over 39 years, rising to the rank of battalion chief. He was named Firefighter of the Year in 2010, and served as a member of the Urban Search and Rescue Team, as a historian and as an instrumental part of the department’s annual Spark of Love Toy Drive. David volunteered his time to mentor middle-school students, organized food for the homeless through his church and worked with the Riverside Latino Network. David succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer in July of 2016 and is survived by Cathy, his wife of 35 years, his daughters Adriana and AnaLisa, and his grandchild.
Since he was a child, John Francis Rooks wanted to be a firefighter. He began as a volunteer in 1986 for La Habra Heights Fire. He then served with Monrovia City, where he promoted to captain and served until his retirement in 2015. John was awarded Firefighter of the Year by American Legion, was a member of the Los Angeles County Swift Water Rescue Team, the USAR Task Force 4 team and was an instructor at the Foothill Fire Academy. Outside of work, John coached sports, played with his grandchildren and golfed. In August of 2016, John suffered a fatal heart attack caused by job-related heart disease. He is survived by his wife, Pam, their children, Michael and Katie, and their grandchildren, Ayden and Irie.

Michael R. Spear began his career in the fire service as a teen when he took part in the Fire Explorer Program of Orange County. He started out as a seasonal firefighter with CAL FIRE’s Tuolumne-Calaveras County Unit, and eventually spent the rest of his 21-year career there, rising through the ranks to become a battalion chief. In addition to the fire service, Michael loved his family, who he often enjoyed time in the snow skiing with, and his favorite teams, the Anaheim Angels and the Los Angeles Rams. Michael passed away in August of 2016, shortly after returning from the Soberantes Fire in Monterey County, as a result of job-related heart complications. He is survived by his wife Kimberly, their two children William and Molly, and his parents Robert and Madeleine.

Paul J. Waite, Jr. began his career in the fire service in 1989 as a volunteer firefighter with the Tuolumne County Fire Department. In 2001, he became a full-time fire engineer with Twain Harte Fire and Rescue, where he would serve until retirement. Paul promoted through the ranks to captain and oversaw the department’s fire training where his commitment to improving the profession showed in his dedication to training volunteer and professional firefighters. Outside of work, Paul loved to travel with his wife, attend A’s games and work in his yard. Paul succumbed to the effects of job related cancer and is survived by his wife, Debra, and his son, Karl, who, following in his father’s footsteps, is currently a firefighter in Alameda.
EDWARD PAUL CLAYTON
Fire Captain, CAL FIRE
December 6, 2016
Edward Paul Clayton began his career in the fire service in 1978 as a seasonal firefighter with CAL FIRE. During his career with CAL FIRE, he rose through the ranks until he eventually became captain. Edward was drawn to being a firefighter because of the sense of urgency entailed in the work, and the importance of the work to those within his community. He was known for his warm smile, his passion for beekeeping and his love of nature. Edward passed away from the effects of job-related heart disease. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Carolee, his sons, Trevor and Kevin, his daughter in law, Rashandra, and his granddaughter, Sophia.

DAVID T. MOORMAN
Captain II, Los Angeles City Fire Department
February 5, 2017
David T. Moorman proudly served the Los Angeles City Fire Department for 28 years, where he climbed through the ranks to captain II. He was a member of CATF1 Urban Search & Rescue Team and was deployed to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike. He was also deployed to New York after the 9/11 attacks. Throughout his career he received multiple letters of commendation and most notably the LAFD Medal of Honor. David enjoyed camping, river trips and fishing. Above all, he loved being with family and friends. In February of 2017, David succumbed to a job-related illness. He is survived by his wife, Amy, and their two children, Elizabeth and Richard.

KENNETH RONALD ANDERSON, JR.
Firefighter/Paramedic, Burbank Fire Department
March 11, 2017
Kenneth Ronald Anderson, Jr. was drawn to the fire service due to his love of helping others and began his career as a firefighter with the Burbank Fire Department in 1994. He served the community of Burbank with honor and distinction for the entirety of his 23-year career. Outside of work, Kenneth loved the outdoors and enjoyed hiking through Yosemite and days spent on the river. Kenneth is survived by his wife, Susan, and their four daughters, Brittaney, Amanda, Hanna and Shannon.
CLAYTON CHARLES OGDEN
Firefighter/Paramedic, Santa Cruz City Fire Department
August 1, 2017

Clayton Charles Ogden always loved helping people, so naturally he loved the fire service. He began his firefighting career as a volunteer with CAL FIRE and went on to become a firefighter/paramedic for Sanger before finding his home with the Santa Cruz Fire Department, where he served for nearly 19 years. Clayton received several awards throughout his career including the Santa Cruz FD Firefighter of the Year Award in 2014 and the Medal of Valor in 2017. Outside of work, Clayton dedicated his time to skiing and spending as much time as possible with his family. Clayton succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer and is survived by his wife, Rebekah, of 21 years and their three children, Colby, Samuel and Lily.

BRENT MICHAEL WITHAM
Firefighter, USDA Forest Service
August 2, 2017

Continuing in his family’s tradition of service, Brent Michael Witham began his career as a seasonal firefighter stationed near Idyllwild. Brent’s work ethic and dedication to the fire service caught the attention of a San Bernardino National Forest Captain and he was recruited to join the Idyllwild-based Vista Grande Hotshots crew, which he served on with pride. Fellow crew members regarded Brent for his focus while on a task and for the wit he displayed, which helped keep spirits high. Brent was killed by a falling tree while battling the Lolo Peak fire in Montana with his crew. He is survived by his father, his mother, his step-father and his sister.

PERRY P. CHoy
Firefighter, San Francisco Fire Department
August 23, 2017

From a young age, Perry P. Choy was passionate about being a hero and knew he wanted to become a firefighter. He fulfilled this wish when he became a firefighter with the San Francisco Fire Department, where he served with honor and distinction for the entirety of his 20-year career, even earning a Meritorious Award in 2013. Outside of work, Perry enjoyed outdoor activities including snowboarding and scuba diving in addition to cooking and baking. He is survived by his partner, Aletha and his son, Jeremy.
MARY K. BLAUL  
Firefighter/Paramedic, Orange County Fire Authority  
August 31, 2017

After working various jobs, Mary K. Blaul decided her calling was with the fire service. She graduated from the Orange County Fire Department Career Academy in 1985, completed paramedic training in 1988 and worked as a Firefighter/Paramedic with the Orange County Fire Authority for 27 years. During her career, she worked on numerous Engines and Paramedic units and responded to many major incidents including the Laguna and Malibu Fires. Outside of work, Mary loved sailing, all ocean sports, underwater photography, traveling and spending time with her family. In August of 2017, Mary succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer. She is survived by her husband, retired OCFA Deputy Chief Ron Blaul, and her children, Jeremy, Jeff and Jacquelyn.

GARY DWAYNE HELMING  
Battalion Chief, U.S. Department of Forestry – Los Padres N.F.  
August 31, 2017

Gary Dwayne Helming’s fascination with serving and protecting others led him to a 22-year career in the fire service. He started as a volunteer with the Pine Valley Fire Department. He served with the Bureau of Land Management and went to work in the Los Padres National Forest. Gary was a member of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens and was awarded Santa Maria Elk Lodge Firefighter of the Year in 2015. Outside of work, Gary enjoyed spending time with his family and was an off-road driver for the Fire Guys Racing Team, which he co-owned. Last August, Gary passed away in an accident while battling the Railroad Fire near Yosemite. He is survived by his wife and fellow firefighter Andrea, their son Riley, their twins Walker and Nalani, and his parents Gary and Liz.

TERRY W. SMERDEL  
Battalion Chief, San Francisco Fire Department  
September 10, 2017

Following in the footsteps of his father and his brother, Terry W. Smerdel joined the fire service, serving for 26 years with the San Francisco Fire Department. Terry served at several different stations throughout the city and promoted through the ranks to Battalion Chief. In addition to his work with the fire department, Terry owned his own business, worked actively with St. Robert’s Parish and enjoyed hunting and fishing in his off hours. Terry died while on duty from the effects of a work-related illness. He is survived by his wife, Cyndy, their children, Danica and Jack, and his grandson, Christian.
LESTER LEE WEBSTER
Engineer, Garden Grove Fire Department
October 11, 2017
Lester Lee Webster’s 31-year career in the fire service began with CAL FIRE, where he served for a season before joining the Buena Park Fire Department as a Firefighter. Later, he moved to the city of Garden Grove, where he would serve the majority of his career and ultimately retire as an engineer. Lester loved his family and the outdoors. He enjoyed surfing, softball, fishing, boating, landscaping, cooking and even excelled in remodeling and masonry work. Despite being diagnosed with job-related prostate cancer in 2007, Lester continued to serve in his department until 2012. He lost his decade-long battle with job-related cancer last October and is survived by his wife of 30 years, Marilyn, and his two children, Amanda and Tony.

KEVIN LEE WARD
Fire Captain, Redding Fire Department
October 12, 2017
Kevin Lee Ward was drawn to the fire service because of his enjoyment of working with people and helping others and because of all of the good things about the job he heard from his younger brother. He served the community of Redding with honor and distinction for 28 years as a firefighter and as a member of the swift water rescue and HAZMAT teams. Outside of work, Kevin enjoyed hunting, fishing, water skiing and riding horses with his wife. Kevin succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer and is survived by his wife, Vicky, their sons, Tyler and Derek, and his three siblings, Mike, Darrin and Danette, along with his mother Evelyn.

STANFORD ALFRED SIMI
Fire Chief, River Delta Fire District
November 5, 2017
Chief Stanford Alfred Simi began his 51-year career in the fire service in 1966 as a volunteer firefighter. By 1974, Stanford was the chief of the Rio Vista, River Delta and Montezuma Fire Departments. Chief Simi served his community with honor and distinction and received many awards — including Special Congressional recognition for invaluable service to his community, Solano County Firefighter of the Year and the Melvin Jones Award. Outside of the fire service, Stanford was an avid fisherman, possessed a Class III Private Pilot’s License, and enjoyed any opportunity to train and mentor future firefighters. Last November, while still in active duty, Chief Simi succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer. He is survived by his wife, Medora, and their children.
ANDRÉ SYLVESTER JONES  
Firefighter, Pasadena Fire Department  
November 13, 2017

André Sylvester Jones set aside dreams of an NFL career and entered the fire service to provide for his family and actively serve his community. Heeding the advice of mentors and family friends, André became a firefighter with the Pasadena Fire Department. True to his mission of serving his community, André got involved in fire safety and thoroughly enjoyed spending time educating those in his community. Outside of work, André’s passions included playing sports, spending time with family and friends and mentoring youth in his community. André succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer. He is survived by his wife, Renette Pijeaux-Jones, and his daughters, Ashlee and Jillian.

RICH HALL  
Battalion Chief, Menlo Park Fire Department  
November 28, 2017

Rich Hall was hired by the Menlo Park Fire Department in December of 1973 and he happily spent his career with the department, serving the community with honor and distinction and rising through the ranks to Battalion Chief. Rich enjoyed mentoring and training the next generation of firefighters by teaching fire academies and working as an instructor in the Fire Science program at the College of San Mateo. Outside of work, Rich dedicated his time to staying fit, competing and winning medals in the Firefighter’s Olympics, and spending time with his family, friends and firefighter “brothers”. Rich succumbed to the effects of job related cancer and is survived by his wife, Barbara, his daughter and son in law, and his five grandchildren.

STEVE HOLT  
Fire Captain, Hayward Fire Department  
November 29, 2017

Fire Captain Steve Holt began his career in the fire service in 1987 as a firefighter with the Hayward Fire Department, where he served with honor and distinction for nearly 30 years. Steve promoted through the ranks to fire captain and received accolades for his work during the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake and during the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire. Steve loved board sports and was a professional skateboarder and snowboarder who also enjoyed surfing, renovating old fire alarm boxes and spending time with his wife and daughter. Steve succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer and is survived by his wife, Denise and his daughter, Kaitlyn.
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JEFFERY LADD TIMMS
Engineer, Redwood City Fire Department
December 2, 2017

Jeffery Ladd Timms sought out the fire service as a career that would allow him to serve his community and be part of a team. In 1984, he joined the Redwood City Fire Department, where he would serve his entire 30-year career. Jeffery took on many responsibilities within the department: he started a bicycle-based EMT program to provide aid during large community celebrations, he was a part of the department’s original Neighborhood Emergency Response Team and he was the department liaison to the Alicia Ann Rausch Burn Foundation for kids. Outside of the fire service, Jeffery was a certified pilot and flight instructor. Jeffery succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer last December and is survived by his wife, Lisa, his mother, Bobbi, and his siblings.

LINUAL ANTHONY WHITE, JR.
Fire Chief, Lompoc Fire Department
December 6, 2017

Linual Anthony White, Jr.’s career as a firefighter was inspired by his father, who was also a firefighter. He began his 32-year career as a firefighter with El Centro Naval Air Station, where he served for 25 years before joining the Lompoc Fire Department. He was named Lompoc’s fire chief in 2002, serving until 2009. Linual was active in his community, serving area foundations and was also elected to the Lompoc Hospital District Board of Supervisors. Following his death from job-related cancer, Linual was posthumously named the 2018 Lompoc Man of the Year by the Lompoc Chamber of Commerce. He is survived by wife, Carolyn, his children, Allison, Lauryn and Linual, III, and his stepsons Rick and Jeff.

CORY DAVID IVERSON
Fire Apparatus Engineer, CAL FIRE
December 14, 2017

Inspired and mentored by his uncle, a CAL FIRE captain, Cory David Iverson began his career in the fire service in 2008 as a volunteer firefighter with the Elfin Forest – Harmony Grove Fire Department in San Diego County. A year later, he accepted a position with CAL FIRE’s Riverside Unit. Cory loved the fire service and relished the various assignments he was given including his time spent on a helicopter out of the Hemet-Ryan Air Attack Base and his season with the Bear Divide Hotshot Crew. While with CAL FIRE’s Monte Vista Unit, Cory was deployed to battle the Thomas Fire in Ventura County where he died in the line of duty. Cory was known for his dedication, incredible work ethic and passion for the job. He is survived by his wife, Ashley and their daughters, Evie and Taylor.
RICHARD SCOTT SCHWINGEL  
Engineer, Rialto Fire Department  
January 27, 2018

Richard Scott Schwingel was hired as a firefighter/paramedic in 2001 with the City of Rialto, where he served with honor and distinction for the entirety of his 16-year career. Scott was promoted within the department to fire engineer in 2006, received the Rialto Fire Department Life Saving Award in 2016 and was the recipient of the Rialto fire department “Firefighter of the Year” Award in 2017. Outside of work, Scott loved NASCAR, the Pittsburgh Steelers, camping, off-road racing and time spent with family. Scott passed away in January following a battle with job-related cancer. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Stephanie, their children, Robbie, Austin and Bella, and their grandson, Bryce.

GEORGE D. GEMIND  
Firefighter, Glendale Fire Department  
February 18, 2018

Embodying the finest qualities of a true firefighter, George D. Gemind served the community of Glendale with honor and distinction for 27 years before his retirement in 2013. George possessed the skills of a craftsman and was instrumental in the design, fabrication and outfitting of Glendale’s fire apparatus. His work as a firefighter earned him several awards, including the prestigious Distinguished Service Award recognizing him as the Firefighter of the Year in 1990. George was an avid dirt bike rider and rode thousands of miles through Baja and, for many years, took on the challenging Colorado 1000 dual-sport rides. George succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer and is survived by his wife, Cathy, of 31 years.

TRENT RICHARD LINDHOLDT  
Engineer, Auburn Fire Department  
April 10, 2018

Since he was a young boy, Trent Richard Lindholdt knew he wanted to be a firefighter. He began his career at 19 with the U.S. Forest Service. He worked in several Northern California departments including Rocklin, Foresthill and Lincoln before settling in Auburn, where he spent the last 21 years of his career. Outside of the fire service, Trent loved hunting, fishing, and football. He was a regular participant in the Central Valley region’s annual “Guns N Hoses” charity football game and coached football. Trent succumbed to the effects of job-related cancer. He is survived by his wife, Kristen, his daughters, Courtney and Emma, his mother, Gail, and his sister, Erica.

DAVID ROBERT ROSA  
Captain, Long Beach Fire Department  
June 25, 2018

David Robert Rosa’s passion for serving others is what led him to join the Los Angeles County Fire Explorers program when he was only sixteen years old. Before becoming a full-time firefighter with the Long Beach Fire Department in 2001, David served others as an ocean guard, lifeguard instructor and a paramedic. During his 17-year career, he embodied the characteristics of leadership and selflessness. He promoted through the ranks to fire captain and was dedicated to his role as a training captain, impacting the lives and careers of countless new firefighters. David was shot in the line of duty while responding to a structure fire. He is survived by his wife, Lyndey, his two sons, Alec and Samuel, his parents, Paul and Jean, and his sister Julia.