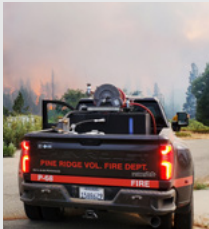


# FIRE LINES

*The California Fire Foundation - assisting families of fallen firefighters, firefighters and the communities they protect.*



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## TO HONOR AND REMEMBER



**2**

**Message from our Executive Director**

**“DEATH LEAVES A HEARTACHE** no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal” - this Irish saying may be anonymous but the emotional sentiment encapsulates what the California Firefighters Memorial stands for.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of this most fitting of tributes to our fallen brothers and sisters. Unveiled on April 6, 2002, it is a lasting tribute to the men

and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect their fellow Californians.

The California Firefighters Memorial located in Capitol Park, on the historic grounds of California’s State Capitol in Sacramento, is a unique and stunning homage to more than 1,400 firefighters who have died in the line of duty since California became a state in 1850.

Over the course of a decade,

more than \$2 million was raised privately for the construction and maintenance of the California Firefighters Memorial with the majority of the funding from firefighters themselves. With the money raised the California Fire Foundation constructed the Memorial and to this day ceremonies and upkeep are funded through the Foundation.

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**GRANT NEWS**  
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MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR FRIENDS,

I HAVE BEEN PART of the California Fire Foundation family for over 30 years as a board member and now as the Executive Director. In that time, I have attended numerous California Firefighters Memorial ceremonies and I can honestly say each ceremony touches my heart immeasurably.

As the 20th anniversary of the California Firefighters Memorial draws closer, I wanted to reflect on what this beautiful ceremony means to me and so many who have attended over the years.

Nothing can replace those we have lost but the California Firefighters Memorial and the beauty of the location gives us a time and place to remember them in a way that is fitting for such brave souls. Family, friends, loved ones and colleagues gather to pay their respects to those they have lost and the dignity this ceremony affords them is truly humbling.

In truth, we never want to add



20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL 2002 - 2022

names to the wall, but a sad fact of our profession is that losing our lives in the line of duty is a stark reality and a risk we take every day. This is why we plan to expand the Memorial wall to ensure each, and every name finds its place on the wall. Here at the California Fire Foundation, we have begun to implement plans to expand the wall in the coming years to make sure we can always remember those we have lost and remember our brave brothers and sisters who pay the ultimate sacrifice in keeping their fellow Californians safe

from harm. The California Firefighters Memorial's creation was thanks solely to private donations and we never take that support for granted. We are so very thankful to each and every one of you that has donated in the past - our work simply cannot happen without your support. On behalf of the staff and board members of the California Fire Foundation, thank you.

*Rick Martinez*



Rick Martinez Executive Director California Fire Foundation



COVER STORY CONTINUED



A FITTING TRIBUTE

THE CALIFORNIA Firefighters Memorial encompasses four elements - the Memorial Wall inscribed with the names of California firefighters who have died in the line of duty, two statues that immortalize these fallen heroes and an annual ceremony of remembrance for those whose names will adorn the wall.

The centerpiece of the California Firefighters Memorial is a stunning brushed limestone Memorial Wall that currently carries the names of the fallen. Individuals qualify for placement on the wall if it is officially determined that their death occurred either on duty or as a result of illness or injury directly related to their job.

This striking memorial in Capitol Park, depicts the heroism of the profession and the agony felt when a firefighter falls in the line of duty. The two bronze statues that flank the wall beautifully capture the essence of the firefighting profession. "Holding the Line" honors the profession of firefighting and depicts four firefighters in action working a hose line. The statue was created by renowned artist Lawrence Allen Noble.

On the other side, "Fallen Brother" honors our fallen heroes and portrays an anguished firefighter carrying his 'fallen brother'. The statue was created by Jesus Romo, a retired Sacramento firefighter.

Continued on page 4





COVER STORY CONTINUED



### TIME HONORED TRADITIONS

**THIS YEAR'S CEREMONY** will feature the moving personal tributes, the presentation of a California state flag to the families of those whose names are newly added to the Memorial Wall, and a recessional to the Memorial Wall in Capitol Park at the conclusion of the ceremony. The ceremony has become a touchstone for the profession, and a chance for firefighters, families and community members to grieve and remember together.

The Pipes and Drums of California Professional Firefighters will once again be present at this year's Memorial. Playing in the great tradition of Scottish bagpipe bands, the group lends an air of dignity and honor to the ceremony.



### COMING TOGETHER TO REMEMBER

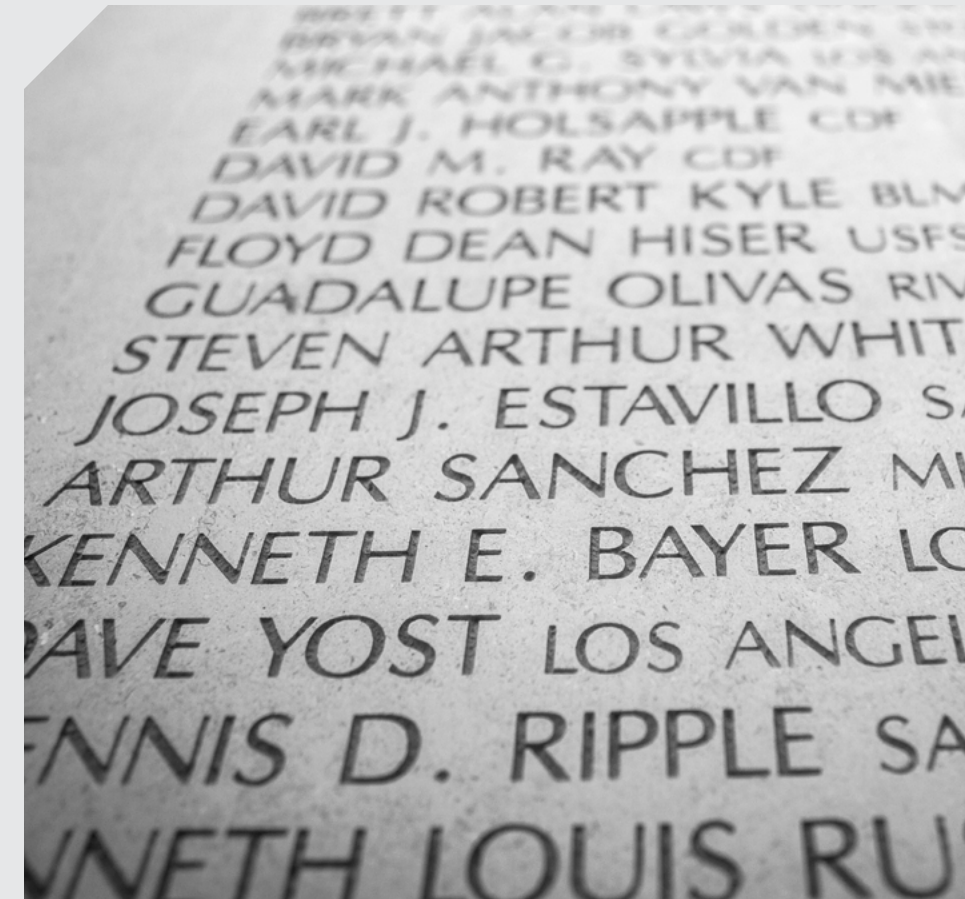
**SINCE 2002**, the California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony has honored those firefighters who have lost their lives from traumatic line of duty deaths or job-related illness. The solemn remembrance is steeped in the traditions of the firehouse and hundreds of firefighters, family members and grateful citizens gather in the heart of California's capital, to pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate price to keep us safe.

Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the memorial has looked a little different over the past two years. In the absence of an

in-person ceremony, the California Fire Foundation was determined to honor the fallen with dignity and respect and created a moving commemorative video for 2020 and 2021's California Firefighters Memorial Tribute to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. This year we are pleased to be able to welcome those families whose loved ones' names were added to the wall in 2020 and 2021 to this year's in-person ceremony at 6:00pm, Saturday, July 30, 2022 at the Safe Credit Union Convention Center, 1401 K Street, Sacramento.



COVER STORY CONTINUED



*"When we founded the California Fire Foundation back in 1987, the mission of the foundation was to build a better life for firefighters. The Memorial was unveiled in 2002 with the purpose of creating a lasting tribute to California's firefighters who make the ultimate sacrifice protecting the people of our state. Each year I am humbled by the bravery of our fallen and honored to have played a part in bringing this beautiful memorial to fruition."*

- **Daniel A. Terry**, Board Director of the California Fire Foundation and President Emeritus, California Professional Firefighters

### KEEPING THE LEGACY ALIVE

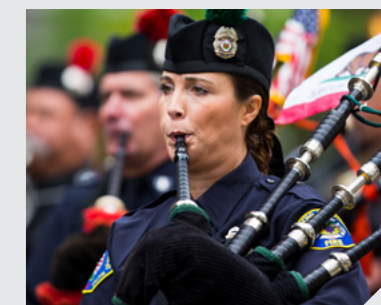
**THIS MEMORIAL** in Capitol Park serves as a permanent reminder of the heroism of the firefighter profession. The sad reality of the profession is that we lose some of our most brave and dedicated individuals in the line of duty, but the California Fire Foundation remains steadfast in its commitment to honor these souls in a way they deserve to be remembered. Over the coming years more names will sadly need to be added to the wall and the California Fire Foundation will implement a plan to expand the current memorial so

*"As President of California Professional Firefighters and Chair of the California Fire Foundation, I have had the honor of hosting the California Firefighters Memorial ceremony for several years. It is a duty I take profoundly seriously. Etched into the Memorial Wall are the names of more than 1400 men and women who gave their lives in the line of duty. To be able to honor our fallen brothers and sisters is truly a privilege."*

- **Brian K. Rice**  
Chair of the California Fire Foundation  
President, California Professional Firefighters

that all those we lose in the line of duty will be honored in this most solemn of tributes.

The Memorial's inception over two decades ago was possible solely due to privately raised funds, mostly from firefighters themselves, for its construction and maintenance. We welcome donations large and small to keep this most fitting of tributes as a legacy for our brave fallen brothers and sisters for years to come. For more information on the expansion visit [www.cafirefoundation.org/memorial-expansion/](http://www.cafirefoundation.org/memorial-expansion/).





# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Thank You Donors



**YEAR-ROUND WILDFIRE** season is becoming the new normal in California and with each passing year the fires are becoming ever more record breaking and destructive. One fire department that knows all too well the effects of wildfires is Pine Ridge Volunteer Fire Department in Shaver Lake. When the Creek Fire ripped through their community in September 2020, 66 out of the 88 homes were destroyed along with 3 of the fire department's engines.

General Motors (GM) stepped up to lend a helping hand to Pine Ridge and 9 other departments in need throughout the state by generously donating 10 new Chevrolet trucks and SUVs.

"We were proud to support the

brave firefighters putting their lives on the line to protect our communities from the growing threat of wildfires in California," said Terry Rhadigan, Executive Director, Corporate Giving at General Motors. "We hope that, with these vehicles, fire departments throughout the state will continue to have the resources they need to hold the line against these devastating fires and keep Californians safe."

"The GM High Country donation is now Pine Ridge's Patrol 68. Carrying 300 gallons of water and full Basic Life Support medical gear, it is one of our most popular first response rigs. Its 4x4 and off-road features also make it the best responder in muddy

or snowy areas that a traditional engine couldn't go, and our older patrols would struggle with. We might also be the only patrol in the area with heated seats!" Chief James Parr, Pine Ridge Volunteer Fire Department.

Bishop Volunteer Fire Department received a Chevy Tahoe and immediately put it to good use. "In early January 2021, California's hospitals were surged and overwhelmed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In a desperate effort to meet the growing need for medical professionals throughout the state, CalOES put out an urgent need request for volunteer EMTs to respond to California's major hospitals. Still within its first few weeks of service to the

Bishop Fire Department, the Chevy, Tahoe was used to transport three firefighter EMTs from Bishop to Harbor Memorial Hospital, six hours away in Southern California. The EMTs worked in the emergency department, providing reinforcements to the beleaguered front-line staff working grueling night shifts in an inner-city hospital. At one time, there were 160 COVID patients on ventilators at that hospital alone, and the young EMTs received invaluable experience that they were able to bring back to their community. The new Tahoe made this trip possible – and comfortable – for their 17 days of EMS deployment, and brought them safely home to their families," said Chief Dell of the Bishop Volunteer Fire Department.

"It is critical that we provide fire departments – especially those in under-resourced regions – with the support they need to protect the communities they serve," said Rick Martinez, Executive Director of the California Fire Foundation. "The donation from General Motors allowed us to provide vital aid to local fire departments in greatest need of additional firefighting resources and for that we are truly grateful."



## LINE OF DUTY DEATHS

# PAYING TRIBUTE TO THOSE THAT MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

The California Fire Foundation honors our state's fallen by sharing memories from their lives, both inside and outside the profession. We take a moment to honor those that made the ultimate sacrifice.



### FIRE CAPTAIN STEVE MCCANN

*Los Angeles County Fire Department*

Los Angeles County Fire Department and Los Angeles County Firefighters, Local 1014 are deeply saddened to announce the loss of one of their own.

Fire Captain Steven McCann, Fire Station 166/C, Battalion 10. Fire Captain McCann passed away on duty after receiving a 9-1-1 emergency response at Fire Station 166 on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. Steven dedicated 16 years of his life to the fire service and exemplified what a true hero and an esteemed Department member who embodied our core values of courage, caring, and community, both on- and off-duty. He is survived by his three daughters.



### FIREFIGHTER JACOB R. FLORES

*Local 2881, CAL FIRE - Riverside Unit*

It is with deepest regret and sorrow to report the line-of-duty death of Firefighter Jacob R. Flores, Local 2881, CAL FIRE - Riverside Unit, California. Brother Flores, 45, passed away on January 14, 2022 from complications of COVID-19.



### FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC NICKOLAS RAMIREZ

*San Diego Fire-Rescue Department*

San Diego Fire-Rescue Department is heartbroken to announce the passing of one of our own. Firefighter/paramedic Nickolas Ramirez passed away on February 16, 2022, from complications of COVID-19. Nick absolutely loved the fire service and was an outstanding paramedic. His compassion knew no bounds, both with his fire family and his patients.



# FIREFIGHTERS IN ACTION

LAFD firefighters work to get an overturned car back on its wheels after it overturned in a two-car collision that trapped one person in North Hollywood.

If you or someone you know might be interested in featuring in Firefighters in Action, please send images to [cafirefoundation@cpf.org](mailto:cafirefoundation@cpf.org)



Picture by Mike Meadows

## DID YOU KNOW?



## THE CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTER LICENSE PLATE

The California Firefighter License Plate has become one of the iconic images on the highways and byways of California.

The California Firefighter License Plate program allows active, retired firefighters and eligible surviving family members of fallen firefighters to show their pride and support our fallen. Over 48,000 California Firefighter license plates are on the roads today.

The specialty plate was created by the California Professional Firefighters and features the iconic Backdraft movie poster image, the rights of which were donated for exclusive use on the California Firefighter specialty plates.

The License Plate program is administered by the California Fire Foundation with a portion of the proceeds from the sales of these specialized license plates

going toward the maintenance and upkeep of the California Firefighters Memorial, located in Sacramento's historical Capitol Park.

For more information regarding ordering your California Firefighter license plate, call (800) 890-3213 or e-mail [cafirefoundation@cpf.org](mailto:cafirefoundation@cpf.org) and for personalized license plates, you may now search online at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).



GRANT NEWS

# GRANT NEWS

In 2021, the California Fire Foundation awarded over \$1.78 million in grants to help fire departments, firefighter associations and community-based organizations actively address some of the state's toughest wildfire and disaster prevention, preparedness, relief, and recovery needs.

Last year, we awarded grants to 62 fire departments/local firefighter associations and 64 community-based organizations across California focusing on a wide range of projects.

Our statewide funding cycle is now open and will be accepting grant applications through June 17.

Here are just a few of the organizations we were proud to support with grant funding in 2021:

## Project: Camp

The days immediately following a wildfire evacuation, or a disaster are highly uncertain, stressful, and anxious days. At Project: Camp they help parents and care givers find normalcy for their family by providing day camps for their kids that are fun, immersive, and safe. While kids have a blast at camp, parents have the time and space to get back on their feet.

During the Caldor Fire in 2021, the California Fire Foundation supported their on-the-ground efforts and enabled Project: Camp to run a camp in Reno, NV, where many people were temporarily located to during the evacuations across El Dorado County.

*"Thanks to the support from California Fire Foundation we served about 35-60 campers per day for 10 days with the help of 21 local volunteers. Our campers were from families that were evacuated from the South Lake Tahoe and surrounding communities, some who had lost homes, as well as children of first responders. Our parents shared the relief and support they felt from having full-day programming for their kids that allowed them to do what they needed to support their family, deal with the effects of the fire, and have the space to support their own mental health and wellbeing."*

- Mikey Latner, Executive Director, Project: Camp



## Good Farm Fund:

The California Fire Foundation awarded grants to the Good Farm Fund to provide Mendocino and Lake County farms and agricultural workers with direct wildfire relief and recovery assistance. Our grants also helped support local farms in becoming fire ready and improving their fire resilience. Jeannie Elizabeth Kelly of Coming Home to Country Farm in Clearlake will use the grant to replace fencing destroyed during the Sulphur Bank Fire in 2017 and remove burned trees that are falling on existing fencing.

"Two years after the Sulphur Bank Fire burned through my property, I was still struggling to get my head above water when the COVID-19 pandemic hit," shared Kelly. "Had it not been for the Good Farm Fund grant to provide the big boost I needed; I don't know how my farm would have survived."

Photo Credit: Good Farm Fund



## 911 AT EASE INTERNATIONAL (SANTA BARBARA AND SAN LUIS OBISPO CHAPTERS)

First responders operate in trauma-based professions where emotional injury is a common side effect with work-related situations and events. 911 At Ease International provides first responders, and their family members, with access to free, professional, confidential, local, trauma-informed counseling and therapy. In addition to individual counseling, 911 At Ease also provides substance abuse group meetings, support group meetings, equine therapy, canine therapy, and critical incident response support to departments and agencies during their time of need.

With California Fire Foundation's funding partnership, they served over 1,000 first responders and their immediate family members across the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties during this past year. The important, mission-focused work of 911 At Ease translated into a number of success stories in 2021, including saved lives (prevented suicides), saved marriages, and first responder resiliency.





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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



*On behalf of our Board of Directors and the California Fire Foundation staff, thank you for supporting the California Fire Foundation - we are truly grateful.*

**Brian K. Rice**  
Chair, California Fire Foundation  
Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (retired)  
President, California Professional Firefighters

**SECRETARY: Mike Lopez** - CAL FIRE (retired)  
Secretary-Treasurer, California Professional Firefighters

**DIRECTOR: Daniel A. Terry** - President Emeritus, California Professional Firefighters  
Stanislaus County Supervisor (retired)  
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