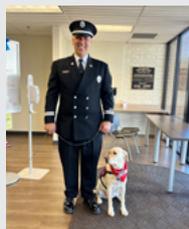


# FIRE LINES

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



**/// PAGE 6**  
**OUT OF TRAGEDY  
THERE IS HOPE**

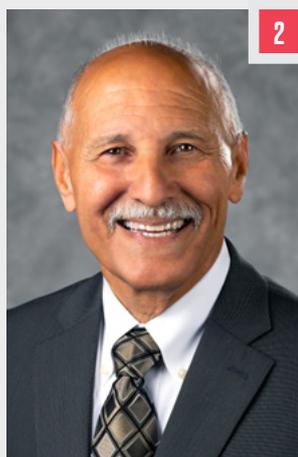


**/// PAGE 7**  
**PARTNER  
HIGHLIGHTS**

**/// PAGE 9**  
**HONORING THOSE WHO MADE  
THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE**



## FIREFIGHTERS UNITING TO HELP A COMMUNITY IN NEED



2

**Message from our  
Executive Director**

**OVER THIS PAST WINTER,** Californians witnessed some of the worst storms and flooding in our state's history. We may be out of the eye of the storm, but vulnerable communities are still picking up the pieces and trying to put their

lives back together months later. The city of Pajaro in Monterey County is one such community still reeling from the flood damage and struggling to get back on its feet. The community was flooded after a levee failed during a significant

storm on March 10. Streets, homes and businesses of the mostly Spanish-speaking town of 3,000 people were under several feet of water. The town is home to people already facing harsh economic challenges

*Continued on page 3*



**PAYING  
TRIBUTE  
/// PAGE 10**





**COVER STORY CONTINUED**

with many of the residents being low-income farm workers.

It is well known that firefighters are immensely proud and committed to serving their communities. When CAL FIRE Assistant Chief John Byrne from the San Benito-Monterey Unit learned of the ongoing hardship of Pajaro residents he was driven to do something to help.

“Many of these residents were evacuated in early March and a month later many were still displaced or without running water and adequate sewage systems at their homes,” said Byrne. “These families are on the lower socio-economic scale and already vulnerable but ultimately, they just want to get back to their homes.”

The first action Byrne took was

to arrange for porta potties and hygiene stations to be set up in those communities so that residents had a way to shower and do their laundry. However, Byrne did not stop there. He recalled a conversation he had with Mike Lopez, retired CAL FIRE Battalion Chief and California Fire Foundation’s Secretary and Secretary-Treasurer of the California Professional Firefighters. Lopez relayed one of his most profound memories was handing out the California Fire Foundation’s disaster relief cash cards to people who had lost everything in the Camp Fire in 2018. “That memory from Mike Lopez came flooding back and as it happened our unit had just

*Continued on page 4*



California Fire Foundation’s Silvia Bastida delivering Disaster Relief cards to CAL FIRE Assistant Chief John Byrne

**COMMITTED TO SERVING THE COMMUNITY**



**COVER STORY CONTINUED**



■ Teams organizing ahead of disaster relief cash card distribution

Continued from page 3

signed up to be part of the California Fire Foundation’s SAVE program in February, the timing was perfect,” said Byrne.

The SAVE program is available to any officially organized fire department or fire protection district to enable firefighters to distribute \$250 disaster relief cash cards to eligible survivors of fire and natural disasters. This allows survivors to purchase items to get them through the next 24-48 hours that they may not have been able to grab while evacuating.

Byrne was given 300 cards totaling \$75,000 from the California Fire Foundation to distribute to those in need in Pajaro. Utilizing impact maps from damage assessments to determine the addresses most in need, Byrne organized 18 different teams

comprising of firefighters from North County Fire Department, Monterey Bay Crew of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Firefighter union members from local 2881 and local 3058, retired firefighters and students from Monterey Peninsula College fire academy to personally distribute the cash cards door-to-door to residents. In each team there was at least one bilingual person to help communicate with residents and within one hour 200 cards had been distributed.

Displaced Pajaro residents were also taking shelter at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville and Byrne, along with his team of volunteers, personally distributed the remaining cards to impacted residents. “I have been involved with many fundraising events but this one really hit home – it was very special,” said

Byrne. “We managed to reach every impacted family at the shelter and to personally hand out the cards was extremely rewarding, after all these people have lost all their worldly possessions.”

As the state braces itself for potential flooding due to the summer snowmelt, Byrne is urging other departments to sign up to the SAVE program. “At the end of the day it’s about locals helping locals and fire departments coming together for the greater good,” said Byrne. “All fire departments in the state should be part of this program – you don’t know when a large disaster is going to hit and handing these cards out to the communities we serve reminds you what being part of the fire service it is all about. I was so honored to be part of this experience; I have done many fundraising events, but this is something

special. Never in my career have I been involved in something so large and giving.”

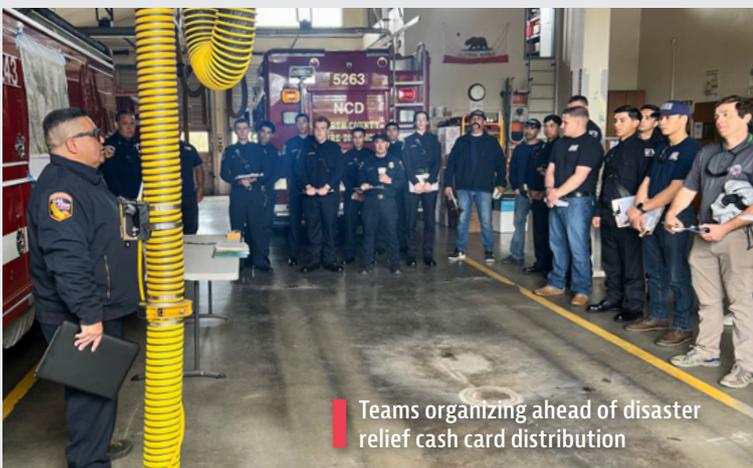
For more information on California Fire Foundation’s Disaster Relief efforts and how to support this vital program, visit [cafirefoundation.org/programs/disaster-relief-programs](http://cafirefoundation.org/programs/disaster-relief-programs).



**SCAN THE QR CODE**

to view or download the Impact Report

For Fire Departments interested in learning more about the SAVE program visit [cafirefoundation.org/save](http://cafirefoundation.org/save) or contact California Fire Foundation SAVE Coordinator, Nicole Paskey at [npaskey@cpf.org](mailto:npaskey@cpf.org).



■ Teams organizing ahead of disaster relief cash card distribution



■ Teams organizing ahead of disaster relief cash card distribution

# OUT OF TRAGEDY THERE IS HOPE

**LOSING A PARENT** can be the single most traumatic event in a child's life. The dangers of the firefighter profession are real and sadly the California Firefighters Memorial stands as a stark reminder of those acute dangers and the reality of losing a parent in a line of duty death.

Many children of California's fallen fighters experience important milestones of their lives without their firefighter parent at their side - milestones such as heading off to college. When a family suffers the unimaginable trauma of the loss of a parent in the line of duty, the Foundation is there to lend a helping hand to the children of the fallen with the Daniel A. Terry Scholarship.

*"This scholarship enables me to get a great start on my future. This scholarship will help enable me to become a successful woman. The kind of woman my father would want me to be."*

**- Elizabeth M.**

For Lauren McKnight that unimaginable trauma is something she lived through. "My father, Matthew McKnight was a Captain/Paramedic for LA City Fire Department and passed away suddenly when I was fourteen years old, right before I entered high school," said Lauren.

Children of fallen California firefighters may suffer extreme hardships, but thanks to the Daniel A. Terry Scholarship the hardship of affording a college education does not stop

them realizing their dreams of receiving a higher education. Named for California Professional Firefighters President-Emeritus Daniel A. Terry, the scholarship program was conceived to help the children of fallen firefighters by providing financial assistance to help further their education.

Due in part to the Daniel A. Terry scholarship, Lauren fulfilled her dream of going to college and attended UC Santa Barbara, earning a bachelor's degree in chemistry.

"I believe the trauma of this experience has drastically shaped me as a person and shifted



Lauren with her dad Captain/  
Paramedic Matthew McKnight  
- LA City Fire Department.

*"I am excited to take the next step of pursuing a career with a fire department when I begin the fire academy at a community college this coming August. I will not be earning an income during this time so being awarded the Daniel A. Terry Scholarship by the CA Fire Foundation will help me afford the academy and will ultimately help me achieve my lifelong dream of becoming a firefighter just like my father."*

**- Joseph D.**

Continued from page 5

the trajectory of my life personally, educationally, and professionally,” said Lauren. “I have learned a significant amount about myself, and gained confidence in my abilities to navigate whatever hardships I may face.”

After graduating, she earned her Pharmacy Technician Certification and has recently been accepted to the incoming class of Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at UC San Diego.

“This scholarship has been very meaningful to me as I have been able to pursue both my academic and professional goals. Working towards my Doctor of Pharmacy degree has also instilled in me an awareness of the hardships patients could be facing behind closed doors, and how to remain sensitive



■ Lauren at graduation

## DID YOU KNOW

The Alan Pattee Scholarship Act enables qualified fallen firefighter survivors to attend certain colleges without having to pay tuition or other fees. You may be able to receive this higher education support if you are a survivor of a California firefighter who has passed away. To find out more visit our FAQs by scanning the QR code.



*“The Daniel A. Terry Scholarship has been extremely beneficial in my education journey. Being a student comes with many costs outside of just the school tuition. Every semester I buy or rent textbooks and commute to school. This all adds up financially and I am thankful to receive any help in reducing those expenses. I am forever grateful for the Daniel A. Terry Scholarship and the California Fire Foundation for helping me on this journey.”*

– Alexander D.

to their struggles,” said Lauren. “This scholarship reminds me of how my father served the community with devotion, respect, and love, and how I carry on his legacy when I interact with patients.”

Lauren’s brother, Matthew, has recently submitted his application for the scholarship. “This scholarship will allow me to pursue a bachelor’s degree in psychology at California State University, Fullerton, said Matthew. “My father always showed pride in being a Captain of

the Los Angeles City Fire Department and because of this scholarship, I am grateful to have the resources to follow in his footsteps.”

Since its inception in 2007, the program has awarded over \$200,000 in scholarship funds to more than 100 students. Each scholarship award is \$3,000 and renewable for up to four years, for a total award package of up to \$12,000.

This scholarship gives the children of fallen firefighters a path to triumph through adversity and serves as a beacon of hope to build a bright future.

Visit [cafirefoundation.org/scholarships](http://cafirefoundation.org/scholarships) for information on how to apply.

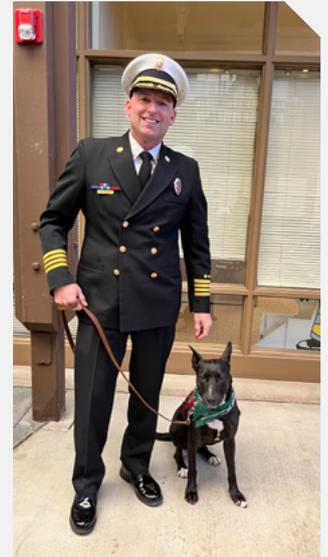
*“I hope to make my dad proud of who I become. Starting with a dream he had for me of going to college. With this scholarship, I’ll be working toward that mutual goal of ours, to get an education. This would mean everything to me, I want to do everything I can to make him proud. My dad would be so proud of me for going to school and I am grateful for the California Fire Foundation for this scholarship.”*

– Maya B.

# PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

## WARFIGHTER OVERWATCH

Grant recipient, Warfighter Overwatch, supports the mental and physical well-being of firefighters in the Sacramento region through the use of therapy dogs in their Atlas therapy dog program. They recently held a special badge pinning ceremony for the dogs at Sacramento Fire Department.



*"We focus on tangible programming for mental health support. This grant was set aside specifically to help fund these therapeutic canines with Sacramento Fire Department. We have three canines currently working for Sacramento Fire, so that money allowed us to support all the needs of the canines."*

- Faun O'Neel, Founder and Executive Director, Warfighter Overwatch.

**"This wonderful collaboration between the CLF and the California Fire Foundation has allowed our staff to serve not only the youth and families in our programs, but to a much larger audience across Los Angeles County, allowing us to also forge fantastic connections with city and local fire prevention staff. We thank you so much for your incredible generosity and cannot wait to do more work along these lines, for the communities we serve!"**

*- Maria D'Angelo, President, The Children's Lifesaving Foundation*



## FORT JONES FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION

Fort Jones Fire Department Association serves the Scott Valley area of Siskiyou County, one of the most socially vulnerable counties in the state with a number of under-resourced communities that also face extreme wildfire risks.

*"The items purchased through the CFF Grant will provide enhanced firefighter safety/accountability and replace worn out equipment. We were also able to purchase public outreach supplies that were used for NFPA fire prevention week and several other events to bring public awareness to various aspects of fire safety and prevention. Without this grant, firefighter and public safety would have been underfunded resulting in increased risk to our community."*

- Chief Hess, Fort Jones Fire Department

**PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS**



**CULTURAL FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

California Fire Foundation's grant enabled the Cultural Fire Management Council (CFMC) to purchase and utilize a cache fire hose for community defense and cultural benefit. The new equipment was used last Fall during their Training Exchange event, which was held on the Yurok Reservation, as well as a cooperative burn with the Yurok Tribe. Additionally, several home defense burns were conducted, providing defensible space for multiple local landowners.

*"A huge thank you to the California Fire Foundation! CFMC has been able to increase our capacity to protect the Yurok community from catastrophic wildfire while contributing to the cultural lifeways of the Yurok People..."*

- Cultural Fire Management Council

In partnership with Edison International, the California Fire Foundation is pleased to announce that a total of \$130,000 in wildfire prevention and preparedness funding was awarded earlier this Spring to the following fire departments and local organizations. Projects awarded serve at-risk communities throughout Southern California Edison's service areas:

- Monterey Park Fire Department
- Concerned Resource and Environmental Workers (CREW)
- Happy 50 Plus Foundation
- Hemet City Fire Department
- Kern River Conservancy
- Kings County Fire Department
- Paradise Fire Protection District
- Radio Bilingüe
- Service Center for Independent Life
- The Children's Lifesaving Foundation



**"Thanks to the CFF grant, young San Diegans are now better equipped to prepare for and prevent wildfires. Campers attending the SDFD Girls Empowerment Camp learned critical lifesaving information to protect themselves and their communities. With newfound confidence and skills, they can now take ownership of their safety and that of those around them."**

**-Wendy Robinson**  
*Executive Director, San Diego Fire-Rescue Foundation*



**"The CFF grant was paramount... We now have the tools and resources we need to form a specialized rope rescue team to not only help the citizens, but to help the first responders who put their life on the line during these large campaign fires."**

**- Montebello Fire Department**

**"The California Fire Foundation grant has allowed us to keep fire-safety issues at the forefront with our camp, our guests, our neighbors & our community."**

**- Whispering Winds Catholic Camp and Conference Center**



**STATEWIDE 2023 GRANT CYCLE OPENS MAY 30TH**

California-based fire departments, firefighter associations, and local nonprofit organizations encouraged to apply! Up to \$25K available for each eligible project.

Learn more about our grants program at [cafirefoundation.org/grants](https://www.cafirefoundation.org/grants)

# HONORING THOSE WHO 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 who made the ultimate sacrifice.



## FIRE ENGINEER MIGUEL CERVANTES

*Rancho Cucamonga Fire District*

It is with broken hearts that the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District and Rancho Cucamonga Firefighters' Association, Local 2274 share news of the passing of one of their own. Fire Engineer Miguel Cervantes, 45, passed away on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, following a courageous battle against work-related non-Hodgkin's Follicular Lymphoma (NHL), a cancer of the lymphatic system. He served the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District for 17 years and began his fire service career in 2000 with Norco Fire Department. He is survived by his wife, Cylina, and their three children.



## FIRE CAPTAIN DOUG MCCULLOUGH

*Modesto Fire Department*

The Modesto Fire Department and Modesto City Firefighters Association IAFF Local 1289 share the sad news of the passing of one of their own. Fire Captain Doug McCullough, 52, passed away on Sunday, March 19, 2023, following a courageous battle against work-related cancer. He served the Modesto Fire Department for 11 years and began his fire service career in 1994 with Salida Fire Protection District. He is survived by his wife, Krista, and their two children Bryan and Makenzie.



## FIRE CAPTAIN TIM STRACK

*City of Riverside Fire Department*

It is with broken hearts that the City of Riverside Fire Department and Riverside City Firefighters' Association, Local 1067, share news of the passing of one of their own. Captain Tim Strack, 53, passed away after suffering a job-related heart attack on April 1, 2023. Captain Strack served the City of Riverside Fire Department with honor for 28 years. Brother Strack was a longtime selfless servant as the President of the Riverside City Firefighters' Association, Local 1067, for 21 years and a voice for every frontline firefighter as California Professional Firefighters 1st District Vice President for 10 years. He is survived by his wife, Wendy, and their three children: Madeline, Justin, and Isabella.



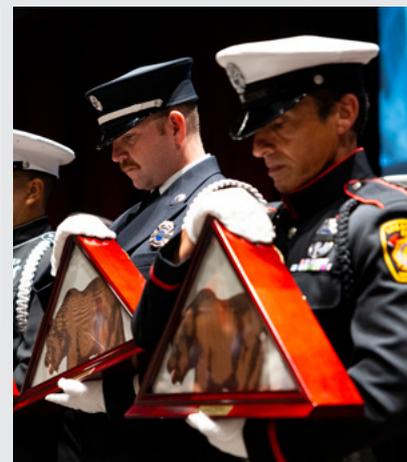
# PAYING TRIBUTE

*The 2023 Annual California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, October 14, 2023, in Sacramento. We will be paying tribute to 34 firefighters who paid the ultimate sacrifice.*

Matthew Brabo  
Anthony Cano  
Miguel Cervantes  
Matthew Clapsaddle  
Paul Crimmins  
Henry Doody  
Brian Falk  
Daniel Geary  
Scott Gomes  
Karl Hegle  
Michael Horton

Earl Jones  
Heath Kelly  
Stephen Leong  
Steven McCann  
Peder McElroy  
John McNelis  
Timothy James Mrozinski  
Russell N. Nakamura  
Marcus Pacheco  
Steven Padgett  
Howard Pheatte  
Nickolas Ramirez III

Matthew Rominger  
Kyle Rutherford  
Mark Schmidt  
Jack Sheppard  
Timothy Strack  
Michael Tooley  
Victor Vega  
Jeffrey Vitti  
Stephen Wakefield  
James Waldmeier  
Jerry G. Welton



# DONOR SPOTLIGHT



## THANK YOU!

Because of the generous support from these recent donors, CFF has been able to continue its critical programming in the areas of disaster relief, wildfire preparedness and prevention, and other climate-related initiatives. Thank you for helping firefighters better serve their communities and continue to save lives -- we are honored to receive these vitally important contributions. Your support makes a direct, meaningful impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of Californians.



*Save the Date*

THE CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS

# MEMORIAL CEREMONY

2023 Annual California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony is Saturday, **October 14, 2023**, in Sacramento at the Sheraton Grand Hotel Sacramento.

For more information, please visit [cafirefoundation.org/memorial](https://cafirefoundation.org/memorial)



California Fire Foundation  
1780 Creekside Oaks Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95833



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Sacramento, CA  
Permit No. 1824

# SUPPORT THE CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION

The California Fire Foundation provides critical support to surviving families of fallen firefighters, firefighters, and the communities they serve. Your tax-deductible donation will help us commemorate fallen heroes, offer scholarships to children of fallen firefighters, provide aid to victims of fire or other natural disaster, and provide fire safety resources to underserved communities across California.

**SCAN THE QR CODE**  
to make a tax-deductible donation



## CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION 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)  
Modesto Fire Department (retired)

**DIRECTOR: Freddy Escobar** - Los Angeles City Fire Department

**DIRECTOR: Dave Gillotte** - Los Angeles County Fire Department

**DIRECTOR: Jair Juarez** - Modesto Fire Department

**DIRECTOR: Rex Pritchard** - Long Beach Fire Department

**DIRECTOR: Darrell Roberts** - Chula Vista Fire Department

**DIRECTOR: Tim Edwards** - CAL FIRE

**DIRECTOR: Vince Wells** - Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

**DIRECTOR: Charlie Martinez, Jr.** - Vandenberg AFB Fire Department

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@CAFireFound



@CAFireFound



@cafirefound



CALIFORNIA  
**FIRE**  
FOUNDATION

[www.cafirefoundation.org](http://www.cafirefoundation.org)

[cafirefoundation@cpf.org](mailto:cafirefoundation@cpf.org)