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Fire Fighter

QUARTERLY

Political Action = BIG WINS



Affiliates throughout the United States and Canada are winning major legislative victories

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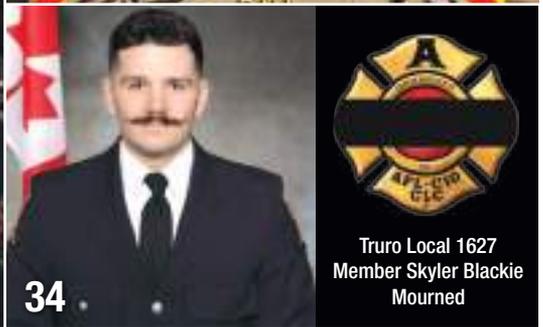
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18 2019 Legislative Conference

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Truro Local 1627
 Member Skyler Blackie
 Mourned

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Fire Fighter

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Joe Biden's Record of Support Earns IAFF Endorsement

The IAFF Executive Board has been discussing the 2020 election cycle at the federal level for many months, evaluating all candidates and weighing their records on fire fighter and union issues.

Since 1992, the endorsement for a candidate for president of the United States has been based on the decision of the IAFF Executive Board, and that decision has been personally transmitted to the endorsed candidate. Over the many presidential elections over the last 27 years, when deciding on a candidate to endorse, your Executive Board has stayed true to the IAFF's core political principle of supporting those who have had our backs and stand up for us on the job.

Although there are many contenders running in the Democratic presidential primary, one candidate's record on fire fighter and union issues rises above the rest of the field. That candidate is Joe Biden.

Joe has been a long-time friend of your union, championing issues that put additional fire fighters in fire stations across America, fighting for the Public Safety Officer Benefit (PSOB) to help the families of our fallen and supporting standards that allow IAFF members to receive the overtime pay they earn when they work additional hours, as well as many other issues. He is also in the pragmatic center lane of politics at a time when so many other candidates are drifting to the ideological fringes.

This April, already having the records on our issues and knowing that Joe Biden is one of our strongest advocates — the IAFF also decided to conduct a poll of members who are likely voters in the Democratic primary.

Knowing our union endorses on support for fire fighter issues, this poll was meant to provide the Executive Board with additional information on the views of our members on the Democratic field. The results showed that our members are moderate and are looking for the IAFF to support a candidate focused on the issues that affect them on the job.

Since President Trump is the presumptive Republican nominee, we knew our Republican members would likely support him. But given his support for right to work legislation, opposition to collective bargaining laws, celebration of the Supreme Court decision on Janus — which was designed to cripple public employee unions — freezing of federal fire fighter pay, proposing to cut federal fire fighters' pensions and threatening to cut federal wildland firefighting resources for our California fire fighters as they battled the horrendous Camp Woolsey fire, endorsing him with this anti-union record would go against our principles, especially when compared to Joe Biden's long-time record of support.

Our endorsement and the support of the IAFF gold and black brand is sought after and noticed by candidates from both parties because they realize that we are a political powerhouse. We have built that power and respect in the political arena by staying true to our basket of issues, the ones that impact our members on the job.

As a union, we must stick to our mission and be involved in political matters that affect our profession and our members' jobs. We know that the candidates who support our issues aren't going to have 100 percent support among our members. We know our members are very politically diverse. We also understand that there will be considerable debate and discussion concerning our endorsements. But that doesn't change the actions the Board must take on union and fire fighter issues, and it doesn't change the fact that, based on every metric of support for fire fighter and union issues, Joe Biden is the candidate that has earned our support.

Many of our sisters and brothers have asked if we endorse Republican candidates. The short answer is yes, we do.

In the last two election cycles, we endorsed and mobilized for Republican gubernatorial candidates who won their elections, most notably in Idaho, Missouri, Massachusetts, Maryland and New Hampshire.

We supported 93 Republican members in the U.S. House and 16 Republican members in the U.S. Senate and we've supported scores of GOP state legislators who were willing to have our backs on Capitol Hill and in state legislatures. We have also given our support to the last two Republican Speakers, John Boehner and Paul Ryan.

While it is true that a strong majority of our union's endorsements go to Democratic lawmakers, it is because these candidates have historically supported union rights, fire fighter issues, your retirement security and safety and health on the job with greater regularity than their Republican counterparts. But, the simple fact remains, we support lawmakers and candidates who support us and have our back, regardless of political party.

Our ability to work with lawmakers in both parties was evident this year in several major legislative victories. In Montana, Mississippi, North Carolina and Florida — all with strong Republican legislatures — the IAFF assisted our state affiliates in passing presumptive cancer legislation protecting our members who get sick as a result of the job. And in Republican-controlled Idaho and Democratic-controlled New Mexico, legislators passed bills making post-traumatic stress a presumptive illness for fire fighters.

And we engage Republicans in presidential politics. Both in 2008 and 2016, we held presidential forums that drew high-profile Republicans — Ted Cruz, Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio and others — as well as the eventual nominee in 2008, John McCain. In the last election, we invested early for Jeb Bush because as governor of Florida he had our back, but ultimately deciding not to endorse a candidate in the general election.

The point is your union has one guiding principle, whether a candidate is running for town council or president: if you support fire fighters and union issues — we have your back.

When it comes to monetary donations to every federal candidate and campaign, including presidential contenders, only voluntary individual member FIREPAC contributions — not your dues — are given to candidates.

To further assist our members in better understanding our decision, we've created a number of resources, including <http://firefightersforbiden.com> and an IAFF Fire Fighters For Biden Facebook page to make sure our members see his record on fire fighter issues and understand how the IAFF makes its decisions on candidates to support and highlight why we are supporting Joe Biden for president of the United States.

We do not weigh in on issues that do not directly impact our members on the job. We feel strongly that important personal issues, such as the 2nd Amendment, religious, pro-life or pro-choice, LBGTQ and other social issues, should be left to each member to consider when ultimately deciding on your vote.

We as your union are only focused on informing you of our decision based on the basket of issues affecting your job, career, pension, employee and union rights.

We know that our membership is representative of the political spectrum of our nation. We know that you have your own political preferences, your own ideology and philosophical views on the critical issues facing our country and how government should run — and we respect, celebrate and hold dearly to the proposition that it's your right to decide who your elected representatives should be at every level of government, even when that means you don't agree with or support the IAFF's endorsement.

As I've said many times before, no one should tell you how to vote. The IAFF should not — and will not — attempt to tell you how to vote. How you cast your ballot is ultimately your personal, private and constitutionally protected decision.



Harold A. Schaitberger

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



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Don't Take a Knee Just Because You Disagree

Why We Formed a Union

When the IAFF was chartered as a union more than 100 years ago, most fire fighters killed in the line of duty were buried in pauper's graves. Fire fighters were among the poorest of the poor — working 24 hours a day, seven days a week for little pay and no benefits to speak of.

We have come a long way in the past 101 years — fighting and clawing for safety, fairness, dignity, access to healthcare and — possibly most of all — the peace of mind of knowing that if we lose our lives, our families won't bear the financial burden of our sacrifice.

What Does IAFF Mission Success Look Like?

Success is the financial relief that the wife of our Brother Chris Slutman, a member of the Uniformed Firefighters Association (UFA) Local 94, will receive 100 percent of his pay, with cost-of-living adjustments, to help raise their three children after he sacrificed his life protecting our freedoms serving with the U.S. Marine Corps in Afghanistan.

Success is the \$359,000 federal Public Safety Officer Benefit (PSOB) that Philadelphia, PA Local 22 Brother Michael Bernstein's wife and three children will receive after he died in the line of duty. When Brother Skyler Blackie of Truro, NS Local 1627, died of his injuries sustained in the line of duty, through IAFF efforts in Canada, his widow is entitled to the Community Heroes Benefit of \$300,000. After 40 years fighting fires as a member of Medford, MA Local 1032, Brother Stephen Pina succumbed to job-related cancer. His widow will receive a pension under presumptive cancer legislation.

We can never bring back a loved one, but part of our mission is fighting for our fallen.

Nothing Was Given to Us

The labor movement has struggled for the middle class over the past century, and fire fighters are part of that struggle. We learned the avenue to our success is politics and we have fought hard in that arena.

By enacting laws to pass collective bargaining, we brought fair and decent wages, equal treatment in the workplace and a voice for safety, equipment and training. The New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association fought to make sure families of our members fighting the War on Terror receive the benefits they deserve if killed in action.

IAFF members lobbied the U.S. Congress and the Canadian Parliament, so our families receive a benefit if we are killed in the line of duty. The Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts successfully lobbied and passed cancer presumption legislation in 1986. Currently, we have 45 states and 12 provinces with legislation to protect our families if we contract job-related cancer. Had Brother Pina been on the job in any of the five states that still don't have cancer presumptions, his family would not receive that benefit.

With the stroke of Governor Steve Bullock's pen on April 19, 2019, the Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters passed cancer presumption legislation, making it the 45th state to do so. This is a tremendous accomplishment after decades of lobbying. Unfortunately, the wife and two children of our Brother Jason Baker of

Great Falls, MT Local 8, who succumbed to job-related lung cancer on February 20, 2019, won't receive that benefit. The fight to protect our families still has a long way to go. As we've seen in traditionally strong labor states — including Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio — the laws that protect us can be stripped away with the stroke of a pen.

The IAFF mission will never end.

Supporting Those Who Support Us

Unlike some labor unions, the IAFF's political allegiance is to no one party, but to those who support our members. Our history of supporting both sides of the aisle in Congress, state houses and local elections is a matter of record. In places like Houston, where a Democratic mayor is screwing our Local 341 brothers and sisters, we are taking him head on. We proved it in Wisconsin, where a Republican governor attacked public employees by stripping their benefits, and we worked hard to vote him out.

How Do We Rate Our Politicians?

We only focus on issues that affect us as fire fighters and paramedics. We pay dues to protect our right to collective bargaining — although in 17 states we *still do not have that right*. We need to know where politicians stand on our pension security and the quality of our healthcare. Politicians need to be committed to properly funding the integral safety components of our job, such as staffing, training and equipment needs.

We pride ourselves on being loyal to those who are loyal to us. Whether we like it or not, politicians sign our checks. If we're not at the table, we're on the menu.

Just like a fire, sometimes we get burned, but we have to get back on the rig and in the political arena and fight on. Like they are in Houston.

That Which Divides Us Pales in Comparison to That Which Unites Us!

We are living in one of the most polarizing political times in our history. The upcoming presidential campaign will see billions of dollars spent driving wedge issues that divide the electorate. We will be inundated from mainstream media like FOX News and CNN, as well as on social media platforms, pushing narratives on divisive issues.

These issues, such as identity politics, immigration, military funding, 2nd Amendment rights, gay marriage and abortion, may be important priorities to you at the ballot box, but they are not IAFF issues. That is not why our forefathers started this union 101 years ago, and it is not why we pay our dues today.

Don't blame the IAFF for supporting politicians that support fire fighters and labor! Don't turn your back on your brother and sister fire fighters. All we have is each other — no different than a Mayday.

Be you, be strong, be fire fighters!



Edward A. Kelly

“If you do not organize and expect to get the cooperation of the citizens in general, you may wake up some fine morning and find that the citizens in general do not respond to your request. You know that the moneyed class will never hand you anything without a hard fight for it; therefore, if the class to which you belong should not cooperate with you in an unorganized body, you should not blame anyone but yourself.”

— William Smith,
IAFF Secretary-Treasurer
(1918-1920)

“Politicians will come and go, but the IAFF mission will never end.”

— Edward A. Kelly, 2019

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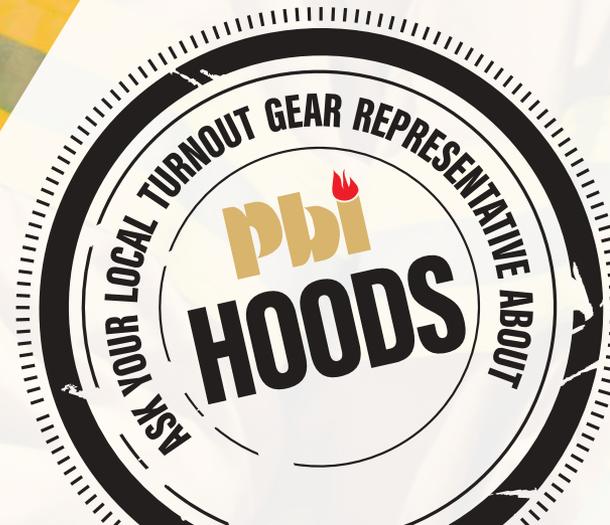
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True Solidarity

Dear President Schaitberger:

Thank you for your support and assistance in our recent struggle for a labor contract with American Medical Response (AMR) in Seattle.

With your support, we were able to avert a labor strike and deliver for our members one of the best contracts we have achieved with AMR. The pressure brought to bear on AMR by the IAFF at the national, regional and local level was key in forcing the corporation to respect the collective bargaining process and return to negotiations. As a result, our bargaining team reached a fully recommended tentative agreement with AMR and our members ratified a

new contract on January 18, 2019.

As unions, we held together and showed AMR and other employers around the nation that labor solidarity is real, potent and must be respected. When our backs were against the wall, you were there for us. We will never forget it.

In solidarity,

TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 763

Scott A. Sullivan, Secretary-Treasurer

Anthony Murrietta, President

Liz Brown, Business Agent

First-Class HazMat Training

Dear President Schaitberger:

Thank you for helping our department with the recent Hazardous Materials Technician [training] delivered by the IAFF.

I was thoroughly impressed by all five instructors and the knowledge they shared with our students. Although we hosted the class in Pascagoula, there were eight fire jurisdictions represented totaling 25 students.

Even though I was not a student, I attended every day and saw firsthand that the students were engaged and learned a lot. This program is first class and it

really helped my department during a time when city finances are at an all-time low.

Again, we at Pascagoula Fire Department want to thank you. We will definitely ask the IAFF to come back and assist us with training in the future.

Regards,

Jon Hyatt

Training Chief

Pascagoula Fire Department

Thankful Redding Member

Dear President Schaitberger:

I'm writing to thank you on behalf of my family from the bottom of our hearts. Your help in directing Nationwide Insurance to expediently handle our claim has been instrumental. The difference being actually able to rebuild our home, versus not being able to afford it.

This entire saga has been difficult on

my family to say the least. Your help, and the overwhelming and undying support from my brothers and sisters is truly appreciated. I don't think I can ever begin to thank everyone enough, but I'd be remiss if I didn't start with you and your efforts. I've never been more proud to be an IAFF member.

There are few final things to straighten out but we have begun our rebuild. We broke ground last week.

This picture of my son in front of our lot best expresses our joy and relief for being able to finally move forward.

Thank you!

Joe Hansen

Redding, CA Local 1934



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Shawinigan, Quebec Fire Fighters Affiliate With the IAFF

The IAFF's presence in Quebec is growing with the affiliation of Shawinigan, QC Local 5209. The association's 44 members who protect the southern Quebec municipality of 50,000 people voted unanimously to join the IAFF.

General President Harold Schaitberger says, "We are honoured every time a group of fire fighters decides to join the IAFF family, and we take this as a vote of confidence in the level of service we provide in Canada, in English and in French."

Shawinigan Local 5209 is the second Quebec fire fighter association to affiliate with the IAFF. In October 2017, Montreal Local 125 and its 2,400 members voted to rejoin the IAFF. In response, the IAFF has been bolstering its French language services with additional staff and other resources.

Shawinigan Fire Fighters Association President Benoit Ferland says his members are

excited and are optimistic about what the IAFF can do for them in Shawinigan and for the profession of fire fighting in Quebec.



"They are very happy. And they are proud to be the first ones in Quebec to join after Montreal," he says. "Our goal is to put the fire fighter job in Quebec on another level. When we saw Montreal join in 2017, we started to think it's a good opportunity to show the IAFF to the rest of Quebec."

The Shawinigan fire fighters work in a composite department and are working with the city to improve public and fire fighter safety by increasing the number of full-time fire fighters on duty. They are also in tough negotiations with the city and are working from a collective agreement that expired at the end of 2016.

With the Shawinigan affiliation, the IAFF now has 25,492 active members in 188 Canadian locals, including two federal locals. ■



Enter the 2019 IAFF Media Awards Contest

Entries in the IAFF Media Awards Contest will be accepted through June 3, 2019. Submit your best work showcasing your local and the work your members do in your community on and off the job. The contest also honors reporting, photography and other communications with members, elected officials and the public. Visit www.iaff.org/mediaawards to enter. For more information, email mediaawards@iaff.org. ■

IAFF members deployed to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing (Fire and Emergency Services Flight) at the Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates are supporting several American military operations.



From Fire Station 1:

Chicago, IL Local 2 member Nick Ward; Baltimore, MD Local 964 member Harry Lancellotti; Reno, NV Local 731 member Jason Leggett; Hawaiian Islands Local 1463 member James Balgas; retired Great Falls, MT Local 8 member Ron Martin; Federal Fire Fighters of Hawaii Local F-263 member Matthew Kaea; Hendricks County, IN Local 4406 member Jeff Schlageter; Madison Township, OH Local 2507 member Jeremiah Irwin; Federal Fire Fighters of Hawaii Local F-263 member Aladin Villalobos; Hawaiian Islands Local 1463 member Frank Abreu; Reno, NV Local 731 member Anthony Masten; Reno, NV Local 731 member Nathaniel Roark; Federal Fire Fighters of Hawaii Local F-263 member Warren Duke; and Torrington, CT Local 1567 member Alex Deering.

From Fire Station 2:

Federal Fire Fighters of Hawaii Local F-263 member Emilio Aguilar; Christopher Dugger (fire fighter, nonmember); Federal Fire Fighters of Hawaii Local F-263 member Justin Sabio (not pictured); Hawaiian Islands Local 1463 member Cedric Sarsfield; and Federal Fire Fighters of Hawaii Local F-263 member Kepa Funn.





A. Michael Mullane Political Training Academy

General President Harold Schaitberger and General Secretary-Treasurer Ed Kelly with the 2019 A. Michael Mullane Political Training Academy held in March. The Political Training Academy is a week-long campaign school held annually that trains members on all aspects of political campaigns. For more information, visit IAFF.org/politics or email politics@iaff.org. ■



Chicago Local 2 Backs Winning Mayoral Candidate

Chicago, IL Local 2 had a thrilling election night April 2 with its endorsed mayoral candidate Lori Lightfoot winning more than 70 percent of the vote in a run-off election. In her victory speech, Lightfoot — who is committed to improving staffing levels and aging equipment for the city's fire department — wore an IAFF FIREPAC pin. General President Harold Schaitberger attended Local 2's endorsement event in March. ■



IAFF Testifies on EPA Failure on Toxic Chemicals

Fire fighters and other workers remain in danger due to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "systematically ignoring exposure risks" in what has been a lax implementation of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act, said IAFF Assistant to the General President for Health, Safety and Medicine Patrick Morrison during a hearing before the House Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change.

The EPA has done little to protect fire fighters and other populations from toxic chemical exposures in the two and a half years since the law updating the Toxic Substances Control Act was passed.

Morrison joined representatives from other labor groups, including autoworkers, teachers and farm workers, in urging Congress and the EPA to do more to protect workers from dangerous chemicals, including asbestos, flame retardants and PFAS. Many of these chemicals have been linked to cancer, which is the greatest health-related issue facing the firefighting profession.

The IAFF continues to work with legislators to address concerns with these chemicals and their use. ■

IAFF Congratulates Harvard Trade Union Program Graduates

Dearborn Heights, MI Local 1355 President Phil Hall and Ft. Myer, VA Local F-253 President Mike Jackson have graduated from the Harvard Trade Union Program (HTUP), an intensive six-week residential session for union leaders. Participants receive high-level leadership training, gain more insight into issues facing the labor movement and exchange ideas.

The program helps union leaders develop keener analytical, managerial and problem-solving skills, as well as discover ways to deepen public understanding of the value and importance of labor unions.

The IAFF awards scholarships to members who demonstrate active participation within their local as an officer, committee member or in another leadership position. ■



IAFF Upcoming Events

- **Canadian Policy Conference**
August 4-7, 2019
St. John's, NL
- **John P. Redmond Symposium/Dominick F. Barbera EMS Conference**
August 19-22, 2019
Nashville TN
- **Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial**
September 21, 2019
Colorado Springs, CO



POLITICAL ACTION = BIG WINS

The strength of the IAFF gold and black, the power of political action and a winning message are part of the model playbook affiliates throughout the United States and Canada are following to win major legislative victories on behalf of our members.

Of note are several significant wins, including in states that are historically challenging territory for labor and unions — including Montana, Florida and Mississippi — where affiliates’ efforts to pass protections for fire fighters who develop occupational illnesses and disease were successful.

Governors in Idaho and New Mexico also signed bills making post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) a presumptive illness for fire fighters, expanding the list of states recognizing emotional trauma as an occupational illness like any other.

And, in Alabama, lawmakers are poised to pass legislation strengthening public employee pensions following a long era of cuts.

In addition, affiliates, including Des Moines, IA Local 4, have won levy measures by impressive margins, providing needed resources for fire departments and public safety.

The formula for success in each of these efforts is simple, but effective: stick together, invest time and resources in forging political relationships, join coalitions when necessary and never give up. And with the resources available from the IAFF — including public relations and strategic campaign support, political muscle, specialized training and other tools and expertise — affiliates are prepared and equipped to fight almost any battle.

The IAFF’s mission to prevent and reduce the incidence of cancer in the fire service and commitment to address growing behavioral health concerns has given credence to

affiliates in compelling their elected officials to act.

“Our affiliates have been working so hard for so long to educate elected officials on the dangers of the job and the need for laws, policies and resources to keep fire fighters safe and ensure their ability to effectively protect their communities,” says General President Harold Schaitberger. “Now those efforts are paying off. We are more respected than ever at all levels of government and in Washington and Ottawa. This influence will only continue to improve the working conditions of our brothers and sisters on the frontlines.”

“This is landmark legislation for fire fighters in Mississippi. Our members really stepped up to put the pressure on their representatives in the legislature. Their phones were ringing off the hook and the bill started to move. They realized that when fire fighters and law enforcement stick together, they need to listen.”

— Johnny Bass, President of the Professional Fire Fighters Association of Mississippi

“All the hard work and relationship-building with lawmakers has delivered for our members,” says 14th District Vice President Danny Todd.

This spring, the Mississippi state legislature passed the First Responders Health and Safety Act, providing a lump sum benefit of \$35,000 for any fire fighter or law enforcement officer who develops cancer and up to \$50,000 for further cancer diagnoses. The legislation also provides fire fighters a monthly benefit of 60 percent of salary for three years.

“This is landmark legislation for fire fighters in Mississippi,” says President of the

Professional Fire Fighters Association of Mississippi (PROFAM) Johnny Bass. “Our members really stepped up to put the pressure on their representatives in the legislature. Their phones were ringing off the hook and the bill started to move. They realized that when fire fighters and law enforcement stick together, they need to listen.”

Two more southern states — North Carolina and South Carolina — are making steady progress toward improved protections against occupational diseases. President of the South Carolina Professional Fire Fighters Association (SCPFFA) Roger Odachowski says

the effort includes a briefing booklet developed with help from the International to educate state lawmakers and urge them to consider a bill to make cancer an occupational disease eligible under workers’ compensation.

The SCPFFA also worked hard to identify and elevate politicians willing to support the legislation. “We’ve been working on this for quite a few years, but believe we now have some momentum,” says Odachowski.

Last fall, the SCPFFA helped elect Nancy Mace state representative for South Carolina’s 99th District. Immediately after taking office, Mace honored her campaign promise to

“We are very confident about the cancer presumption legislation and our chance to get this done during the current session.”

— Tom Brewer, President of the Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics of North Carolina

introduce the cancer presumption bill, along with cosponsor Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter in the 66th District. President Odachowski in April was heartened by support for the measure once legislators learned the facts about occupational cancer.

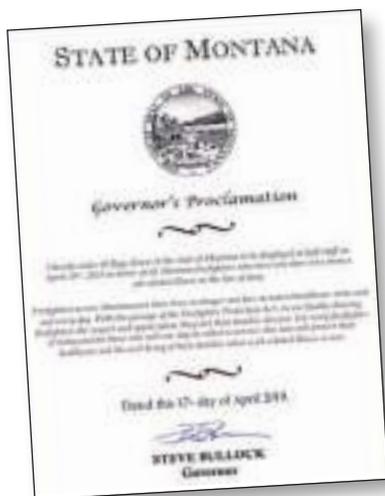
Meanwhile, the Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics of North Carolina (PFFPNC) has worked doggedly for two years to win passage of presumptive cancer legislation for fire fighters and to recognize post-traumatic stress as an occupational illness.

PFFPNC President Tom Brewer and other PFFPNC leaders have been working behind the scenes to win Republican leadership support for the Fire Fighters Fighting Cancer Act. The PFFPNC planned a Fire Fighter Week at the state capital in Raleigh in May and Republican leaders have indicated they would begin moving the legislation soon after.

“We are very confident about the cancer presumption legislation and our chance to get this done during the current session,” says Brewer.

Also this spring, the Tennessee Professional Fire Fighters Association (TPFFA) won passage of cancer presumption for four cancers, though the TPFFA had fought for the law to include 10 cancers.

In a truly historic effort, Montana Governor Steve Bullock in April signed into law the Montana Fire Fighter Safety and Health Act. After more than two decades of lobbying for presumptive protections for occupational cancer, pulmonary and respiratory diseases, President of the Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters (MSCPFF) Joel Fassbinder says the long-awaited bill “sailed through the Montana House, cleared the Senate and landed on the governor’s desk” for his signature, bringing an end to a process



Florida Governor Ron DeSantis on May 3 signed legislation giving fire fighters presumptive coverage for certain cancers.

that had seemingly unending hurdles. Both President Fassbinder and General President Schaitberger attended the signing ceremony in Helena, Montana.

Fassbinder attributes the win to the MSCPFF’s tenacity in educating legislators and building a strategic campaign that included working with the International to develop messaging materials and refocus attention on the Fire Fighter Safety and Health Act. When three state legislators would not be swayed, the MSCPFF sent them packing in the midterm election. By the start of the 2019 legislative session, the path was clear for the newly named measure to gain traction.

In Florida, state legislators overwhelmingly approved presumptive legislation to provide benefits to fire fighters who develop certain cancers. The Florida Professional Firefighters (FPF), with the help of the IAFF, was able to sway reluctant legislators using the results of a University of Miami study further linking cancer to firefighting.

“Once lawmakers saw the data showing fire fighters getting cancer at much higher rates than the public they started lining up in support,” says 12th District Vice President

“Once lawmakers saw the data showing fire fighters getting cancer at much higher rates than the public they started lining up in support.”

— Walt Dix, IAFF 12th District Vice President

Walt Dix. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed the bill into law May 3.

Similar legislation expanding the presumptive law to include five additional cancers passed in the Washington state legislature. The bill was signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee. Washington State Council of Fire fighters (WSCFF) President Dennis Lawson says the state affiliate worked hard to flip the Senate to Democratic control last fall, paving the way for the cancer bill.

Several affiliates have made significant progress in passing presumptive legislation for PTSD, with New Mexico and Idaho bringing the total number of states with such laws to 14.

Newly elected New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham on April 2 signed legislation guaranteeing medical coverage for fire fighters with job-related post-traumatic stress. General President Schaitberger attended the signing ceremony at the Albuquerque Fire Academy with members of the New Mexico Professional Fire Fighters, which helped elect her.

“This was an historic win for us,” says President of the New Mexico Professional Fire Fighters (NMPFFA) Robert Sanchez. “The men and women of the New Mexico Professional Fire Fighters fought long and hard for this, and

we are thankful for the General President and the IAFF for standing with us and encouraging us to always support those who support us.”

The New Mexico win comes after years of groundwork by the NMPFFA to establish a strong presence in the legislature and make the gold and black brand visible across the state. The International and the NMPFFA provided strong political support to Grisham in her rise from the New Mexico House to the governor’s office. Always a proponent of fire fighter issues, she moved the PTSD bill to the front of the legislative docket and helped push the measure forward.

“Our brothers and sisters in New Mexico did an outstanding job getting this legislation to the governor,” says 10th District Vice President Frank Lima. “The NMPFFA put all the tools and strategies to work for the IAFF gold and black: investing time and resources, sticking together and forging bipartisan relationships. This is a perfect example of success using the model playbook.”

Meanwhile, Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana (PFFALA) President Chad Major is voicing confidence in passing a PTSD bill this year in his state, which already

has coverage for occupational cancer, heart and lung diseases. Meanwhile, the Oklahoma House passed a PTSD presumption bill in late March.

The Professional Fire Fighters of Alabama (PFFAL) has been working for four years to



In New Mexico, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed legislation guaranteeing medical coverage for fire fighters with post traumatic stress.

claw back pension benefits after the state in 2013 created a second tier of drastically reduced benefits for newly hired public employees. PFFAL President David Harer is cautiously optimistic the Alabama legislature will approve a measure to return fire fighters currently in Tier 2 plans back to the more beneficial Tier 1 plan.

“We have been following the playbook here in Alabama,” says Harer. “We endorsed some 28 candidates running for office this fall and have made our presence felt in the legislature. Other labor groups have been impressed with the impact of the gold and black.”

The Professional Fire Fighters of Utah (PFFU) had similar success this spring winning back pension benefits cut in 2011 when lawmakers created a weakened Tier 2 retirement plan for newly hired public employees. “We just kept throwing bricks at it with each session, and this year things came together,” says PFFU President Jack Tidrow.

With strong support in the House and Senate, Utah lawmakers reduced years of service for fire fighters and improved payouts from 35 percent of final pay to 50 percent.

Crump’s Law, a bill named for Nathaniel Crump, a Little Rock, AR Local 34 fire fighter who, out of sick leave and unable to claim workers’ compensation, stayed on the job until his death at age 30 from colon cancer in 2017, was signed by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson on April 12, granting fire fighters diagnosed with cancer additional sick leave.

The win on Crump’s Law capped a string of victories for Arkansas fire fighters this spring,

Occupational Disease Protections Improve Across Canada

Elected officials in Canada and its provinces, under sustained political engagement by IAFF affiliates, have taken further strides in the last year to protect fire fighters who suffer from occupational diseases and post-traumatic stress.

The Canadian government, meanwhile, has launched a nationwide action plan to expand research and prevention of fire fighter post-traumatic stress and reduce stigma in the fire service. The government also began a Memorial Grant Program, providing a \$300,000 benefit for families of Canadian fire fighters who die in the line of duty.

“Elected leaders in Canada understand that numerous cancers – and now PTSD – are occupational hazards that must be

addressed, and that families of the fallen deserve compensation for tragic loss. They understand this because our Canadian affiliates have done great work using all available resources to elect their legislators,” says General President Harold Schaitberger.

So far, presumptive legislation for fire fighters has passed in nine provinces and two territories since protections were first won in Manitoba in 2002.

In Alberta last year, legislators approved the first-ever cancer coverage for fire fighters who develop cervical or ovarian cancers, adding to its existing list of protected cancers. The legislative assembly in Alberta, spurred along by aggressive political action by the provincial and local affiliates, paved the way for greater presumptive coverage.

Legislators in Saskatchewan drafted legislation mirroring what was done in Alberta by adding additional cancer coverage for ovarian, cervical, breast, prostate, skin and multiple myeloma.

Post-traumatic stress presumption coverage was added in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador, bringing the total number of Canadian provinces allowing disability compensation for PTSD to nine.

“This was all about following the political action playbook set forth by the IAFF. There was a lot of work done backing the right candidates and having the right conversations,” says 6th District Vice President Mike Carter. ■

Crump's Law, a bill named for Nathaniel Crump, a Little Rock, AR Local 34 fire fighter who, out of sick leave and unable to claim workers' compensation, stayed on the job until his death at age 30 from colon cancer in 2017, was signed by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson on April 12, granting fire fighters diagnosed with cancer additional sick leave.

including improved disability benefits for certain cancers. "We have had a good session. We won better cancer protections for our members and we successfully fended off pension attacks from the Pew Foundation," says President of the Arkansas Professional Fire Fighters Wade Marshall.

The power and influence of well-organized affiliates is being felt at the local level as well. In the past year, affiliates from Chula Vista, California, to Marietta, Ohio, and Des Moines, Iowa, have launched grassroots campaigns to compel city leaders to make modest tax increases to maintain public safety.

Twice before, the City of Des Moines had rejected a one-cent sales tax increase needed to shore up infrastructure and fund public

safety. Members of Des Moines Local 4, with strong support from the International, mobilized and proved to be the difference when the levy was re-introduced and finally approved in March.

The modest levy will allow Des Moines to keep 13 fire fighters who had been hired with a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant and add an 11th fire station.

Local 4 President Michael Van Haalen says,

"This win shows what the Des Moines fire fighters can do. The clout we have gained is unbelievable at the local and state level, and even the national level."

The Des Moines city manager has expressed interest in discussing strategy with Van Haalen on other tax matters and when the Des Moines Local 4 leadership visited their congressional delegation during the IAFF Legislative Conference in March, Van Haalen says members of Congress congratulated them on their win back in Iowa.

"I am so proud that our Des Moines fire fighters are now the talk of the town," says IAFF 2nd District Vice President Mark Woolbright. "We have always known what our brothers and sisters are capable of when they bring the full force of the IAFF to bear. Now they have the respect they deserve and greater influence in important public safety decisions." ■



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PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS ★ Why Joe?

It is your union's job to represent you on the issues that have a profound effect on your career — health and safety, wages, benefits and working conditions.

It is your union's job to represent you on the issues that impact your career — health and safety, wages, retirement security, benefits and working conditions. Whether we like it or not, every single decision that affects you, your career and the ability to provide for your family is made by a politician or someone who is appointed by a politician.

Case in point — in this issue are several examples of how strong political action — working with lawmakers who support fire fighter issues and public safety, regardless of political party — has helped state and local affiliates win important legislative victories on our members' behalf (see pages 12-15).

At the federal level, it is important that you have a union that fights hard on your behalf in the political process.

That's why the IAFF is supporting Joe Biden. Joe has been a long-time ally of the IAFF, protecting our members on the job. His support has helped put more fire fighters on fire trucks in hundreds of our fire departments. He has long advocated to give all fire fighters a voice in the workplace through collective bargaining, and his vote was crucial in establishing and continuing to fund the Public Safety Officer Benefit (PSOB) for families of fire fighters who lose their lives in the line of duty.

We do not base our endorsement on other issues, such as gun rights, LGBTQ issues, abortion, immigration or religious issues.

The IAFF Executive Board — the elected representatives who make decisions on behalf of the membership — voted unanimously to endorse Biden based on his unequaled record on this union's basket of issues and our long-standing bipartisan core value of supporting those who support us.

Biden, who has had a close relationship with the IAFF since he first was elected to the U.S. Senate, also runs in the middle of the political



“Joe has been there for us on our core basket of issues and will be there as we work to pass national collective bargaining and increase funding for the SAFER and FIRE Act grant programs.”

— General President Harold Schaitberger

spectrum on a worker-focused platform, where the IAFF needs a strong voice.

“Joe has been there for us on our core basket of issues and will be there as we work to pass national collective bargaining and increase

Our Political Process

Your Union Will Never Tell You How to Vote.

No organization, individual or union should demand that you vote for a particular candidate. It is a decision based on your personal values, priorities and expectations. The IAFF understands and respects your right to vote for the person who you believe deserves your support, even when that means you don't vote for the IAFF's endorsed candidate. We all have deeply held personal views on issues that influence decisions on who to support and vote for in any political race, including the president of the United States. How much importance you place on these issues in electing a president is your choice.

Why Does the IAFF Endorse Candidates for President?

Your union represents you on a narrowly focused basket of issues — issues that the president of the United States has a big influence on, issues specifically related to your job as professional fire fighters and paramedics, including retirement security, occupational safety and health, collective bargaining rights, healthcare, wages and benefits, worker rights, staffing and presumptive protections.



As your union, the IAFF is your voice on these issues. We need to have a role in determining who gets the Democratic nomination for president to ensure that your voice is heard and remains a core part of the election and discourse, while also working to keep the Democratic party from going further and further to the extreme left, not supporting our issues at all.

No Dues Money Is Given to Candidates. Only voluntary contributions to the IAFF's FIREPAC are donated to federal campaigns — for U.S. House, U.S. Senate and the presidency. Your union doesn't endorse on party lines. We support those who support fire fighters, regardless of political party. The IAFF gives significantly to both Republicans and Democrats. In the 2018 midterm elections, we supported and helped elect Republican governors in Maryland, New Hampshire, Arizona, Idaho and Tennessee — and we supported Republican members in the U.S. House and Senate.

It doesn't matter whether a candidate is a Republican, Democrat or Independent, a conservative or liberal. What matters is whether they understand, respect and support fire fighters. ■

“There’s no question Joe is the one candidate in 2020 who stands out when it comes to a career standing up for people who work for a living and hold a union card.”

— General President Harold Schaitberger

funding for the SAFER and FIRE Act grant programs,” says General President Harold Schaitberger.

The IAFF formally announced our endorsement April 29 (see General President’s message on page 5).

Biden launched his 2020 presidential bid at a rally in Pittsburgh in front of an audience of union members, including members of Pittsburgh Local 1 and other IAFF fire fighters, where he vowed to take on what he described as a broken political system that has eroded the middle class and given rise to intense divisions. “All across America, unions are hurting. With too many people left out or left behind, our political system is broken. We’re tearing America apart rather than lifting it up,” he said.

Speaking to the crowd, Schaitberger said, “There’s no question Joe is the one candidate in 2020 who stands out when it comes to a career standing up for people who work for a living and hold a union card. He connects with workers who don’t believe the last Democratic nominee listened to them or cared about them.”

For more information on Biden’s support for fire fighters and his record on our issues, visit firefightersforbiden.com. ■



Biden’s Record of Support

As president, Joe Biden will continue to stand up for working families and public safety, as he has throughout his political career. He will be a leader on issues that give fire fighters a voice in protecting their community. His record on the issues important to public safety and to our members is clear — he has had and always will have our back.

- Joe cosponsored the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act, IAFF priority legislation to establish public employee collective bargaining rights.
- Recognizing the importance of unions, Joe voted to defeat right-to-work legislation and to restore bargaining rights for federal fire fighters under the National Security Personnel System (NSPS).
- Retired fire fighters have more affordable health insurance and long-term insurance because Joe Biden served as a strong advocate of the Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Safety Officers (HELPS Act).
- Joe voted against raising the Medicare eligibility age and fought against efforts to tax employer contributions for health insurance and pension plans so that fire fighters can enjoy their hard-earned and well-deserved retirements.
- Fire fighters and emergency medical personnel are eligible for overtime pay because of Joe Biden and his support for the 7(k) exemption to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and the inclusion of EMS personnel in the exemption.
- Every family of an IAFF member who falls in the line of duty receives federal benefits because Joe Biden championed the Public Safety Officers Benefit (PSOB) program, which provides death benefits to the families of fallen fire fighters. He later introduced and passed legislation to increase benefits from \$150,000 to \$250,000 and indexed it to inflation so the benefit is now \$359,316.
- Fire departments have the equipment and training fire fighters need to keep our neighborhoods safe thanks to Joe and his vote to create and fund the Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE Act) grant program.



Joe Biden addressed more than 700 affiliate leaders at the IAFF Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, in March. In his introduction of Biden, General President Harold Schaitberger noted, “He has always stood on the frontline with us throughout his Senate career, through two terms as vice president of the United States and as a private citizen, fighting to improve public safety, making sure our homeland and communities are safe, and that our members have what we need to get the job done.”

- More fire fighters are on the job, protecting our communities every day because of Joe’s support and vote to create the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program, as well as consistent support for robust funding.
- Fire departments are now better prepared to respond to all hazards and emergencies thanks to Joe and his vote to create the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and reform the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) within DHS.
- Fire fighters are receiving state-of-the-art hazardous materials training free of charge because Joe supported and voted to allocate homeland security funds to communities at the highest risk and threat of terrorism and voted to increase funding.
- Federal fire fighters’ pensions are safe from cuts because Joe voted to protect federal employee pensions.



Legislative Conferences Focus on Advancing Fire Fighter Issues

Lawmakers in the United States and Canada pledged their support during the U.S. and Canadian legislative conferences on issues affecting fire fighters in both countries.

“Much of our legislative success and accomplishments are due to your work at this Conference over the years. But we can’t rest on the achievements of the past or be satisfied simply by what we have already done. We must look forward because there is so much more to do.”

— General President Harold Schaitberger

National and Local Political Figures Address Legislative Conference Delegates

More than 700 affiliate leaders attending the 2019 Alfred K. Whitehead Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, in March met with lawmakers in Congress to lobby on IAFF legislative priorities, including a national collective bargaining bill, Medicare coverage at age 55, resources and peer-to-peer counseling for fire fighter mental health, the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund and requiring federal fire fighters be tested for PFAS.

Conferees also heard from federal, state and local elected leaders on these issues and on the changing political environment in the nation’s capital and around the country.

The Conference culminated with a keynote speech from former Vice President Joe Biden, which served as a launching pad for his 2019 bid for the Democratic nomination for president of the United States (see pages 12-13).

Kicking off the Conference, General President Harold Schaitberger reminded



General President Harold Schaitberger addresses IAFF members at the U.S. Legislative Conference.



Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)



Representative Dan Kildee (D-MI)

delegates, “Much of our legislative success and accomplishments are due to your work at this Conference over the years. But we can’t rest on the achievements of the past or be satisfied simply by what we have already done. We must look forward because there is so much more to do.”

In one of the biggest applause lines of the day, new House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) pledged to bring the IAFF’s national collective bargaining bill — the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act — to the full U.S. House of Representatives for a vote before the end of the year.



Senator Tina Smith (D-MN)



Governor Mike Parson (R-MO)



Miami, FL Mayor Francis Suarez (R)



Burnsville, MN Mayor Elizabeth Kautz (R)

Fellow Representative Dan Kildee (D-MI) and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), the lead Democratic and Republican sponsors, respectively, of the collective bargaining bill in the House also spoke to the importance of collective bargaining, as well as Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA), newly appointed chair of the House Education and Labor Committee — which has jurisdiction



The IAFF delegation from Wisconsin meets with Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI).



IAFF leaders from Maryland meet with House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD).

over the bill and will consider the legislation later this summer.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) pledged to extend the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund for fire fighters. Schumer also talked of his deep commitment to supporting fire fighters’ mental health, as did Senator Tina Smith (D-MN) and Representative Ami Bera (D-CA), sponsor of the HERO Act, legislation to expand mental health resources and peer-to-peer counseling for fire fighters.

“At its core, being a fire fighter means you believe you are your brother’s keeper.”

— Governor John Carney (D-DE)

Governors Mike Parson (R-MO) and John Carney (D-DE) also gave rousing remarks. Parson recalled his experience as sheriff in southwest Missouri, working alongside fire fighters and emergency medical personnel, while Carney talked about the ethics of being

a fire fighter. “At its core,” said Carney, “being a fire fighter means you believe you are your brother’s keeper.”

A trio of mayors — Miami Mayor Francis Suarez (R), Burnsville (MN) Mayor Elizabeth Kautz (R) and Brockton (MA) Mayor Bill Carpenter (D) — addressed delegates, each noting the importance of cooperation with fire fighters in their respective communities. Mayor Carpenter noted the special meaning of the event for him, coming just one day after the 78th anniversary of the Strand Theatre Fire, which took the lives of 13 Brockton fire fighters.

The day concluded with a speech by the Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation and long-time friend of the IAFF. Secretary Chao noted the long partnership between the IAFF and the Department of Transportation, citing the significant work the IAFF does to deliver hazardous materials training to fire fighters nationwide.

Continued on Page 20

Canadian Legislative Conference Offers Political Outlook for Federal Election

The IAFF's top two federal legislative issues in Canada are moving forward following the 26th Canadian Legislative Conference. More than 120 delegates from across Canada met with dozens of MPs and senators April 7-10 in Ottawa and pressed for commitments on fire fighter safety in the National Building Code and banning chemical flame retardants in upholstered furniture.

The Conference, which took place with the backdrop of a federal election later this year, also featured a federal political outlook session and numerous guest speakers who commended the IAFF for its grassroots lobbying approach and thanked delegates for the work that fire fighters do in their communities.

Canada's Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Ralph Goodale outlined a number of advances the Liberal government has made on IAFF and public safety issues since it was elected in 2015, including the Memorial Grant Program for First Responders, a four-year funding extension for IAFF Haz-Mat training in Canada and the establishment of Firefighters National Memorial Day on the second Sunday of each September.

“Every day, simply by doing your jobs, fire fighters and other public safety officers are exposed to tough and traumatic events, and it exacts a toll. Society simply cannot ask you to do what you do without prioritizing your mental health and well-being. You cannot keep our communities safe if you yourself are injured.” — Canadian Minister of Public Safety Ralph Goodale

The federal government has also established a National Action Plan on post-traumatic stress injury, with Goodale joining Health Minister Ginette Petitpas-Taylor to announce \$40 million in funding for the Action Plan immediately following his remarks to delegates.

“Every day, simply by doing your jobs, fire fighters and other public safety officers are exposed to tough and traumatic events, and it exacts a toll,” Goodale said. “Society simply cannot ask you to do what you do without prioritizing your mental health and well-being. You cannot keep our communities safe if you yourself are injured.”

General President Harold Schaitberger thanked Goodale, a long-time ally, for following through on numerous commitments made prior to the 2015 election, while emphasizing to delegates that these recent legislative victories in Canada all stemmed



New Democratic Party Leader Jagmeet Singh addressed delegates at the 26th Canadian Legislative Conference.

from the IAFF's political action program. Schaitberger said he was “proud and amazed” at how Canadian affiliates at all levels “have not only recognized the importance of political action but embraced it and actually

delivered on behalf of our members in incredible ways.”

MPs from all major political parties addressed delegates. New Democratic Party Leader Jagmeet Singh (Burnaby South, BC), who was recently elected to the House of Commons, greeted delegates while Conservative MP Todd Doherty (Cariboo-Prince George, BC) discussed his Private Member's Bill C-211, which also supports government action on post-traumatic stress among first responders. Green Party Leader Elizabeth May also voiced her support for this year's legislative issues.

Keynote speaker Chantal Hébert, political columnist for the *Toronto Star*, gave an insightful address while a political pundit panel also entertained and informed delegates with a wide-ranging discussion about the current state of federal politics with a federal election on the horizon.



Liberal MP Karen McCrimmon (Kanata-Carleton, ON) posed with Ottawa Local 162 President John Sobey, Secretary-Treasurer Erik Leicht and Executive Board member David André at the Parliamentary Reception.

Other guest speakers included Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs President Ken Block, Canadian Police Association President Tom Stamatakis and Elamin Abdelmahmoud, social media editor at BuzzFeed Canada, who gave an informative talk on the impact that “fake news” has on the political landscape. ■



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Federal Fire Fighters Battle to Keep Pace

Federal fire fighters face a frequently hostile environment on Capitol Hill. In recent years, our federal members have faced attacks on their pensions, bargaining rights and pay — sometimes due to outright hostility toward the federal workforce and sometimes couched as a means to pay for other federal priorities.

“As fire departments across the U.S. move forward with new programs to benefit rank-and-file fire fighters and as states and municipalities recognize the inherent hazards of the job, the federal sector remains decades behind,” says 16th District Vice President Jim Johnson.

For two decades, federal fire fighters have asked and been denied some form of presumptive coverage for cancer and other occupational diseases, despite scientific evidence and the fact that more than 40 states have adopted some form of presumptive coverage for municipal fire fighters.

In addition, federal fighters’ regular work hours total more per week than any other fire fighters in the United States or Canada, with a starting hourly pay rate that is less than the minimum wage in some states.

The IAFF is fighting against numerous ongoing attacks against our federal fire fighters, including efforts to limit or eliminate official time, reduce federal pensions and limit pay and cost-of-living increases.

Meanwhile, the federal bureaucracy leaves little room for avoiding cuts to important emergency services or updating equipment. A battle to move federal fire departments towards fire-based emergency medical services (EMS) has been ongoing for more than a decade, but in many cases, the federal government contracts for private EMS systems even though the costs are substantially higher.



The IAFF continues to fight on Capitol Hill to advance the interests of our federal members. In addition to continuing to advocate for presumptive coverage for occupational illnesses, efforts are underway to ensure federal fire fighters’ pensions are based on the full pay received for their regular tour of duty, and to allow for trade time and to require blood testing for toxic PFAS, as well as numerous other initiatives. ■

Road to Recovery: One IAFF Member’s Journey

Meet Ray Glover, a 34-year veteran fire fighter and member of Memphis, TN Local 1784. His life is forever changed by seeking treatment at the IAFF Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery. Here is his story.



Ray Glover

IAFF: Did your behavioral health problems interfere with your ability to function on or off the job?

Glover: I developed a lot of anger issues. I would easily feel disrespected, disregarded and ignored, and it would trigger my anger. It did not matter who [triggered me] or where we were, I would lose all control. Once I began treatment, I learned I was coping with job-related post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as complicated grief. The root cause of my anger was the loss of my 25-year-old daughter, on whom I had to perform CPR until the ambulance arrived.

IAFF: When did you know you absolutely needed to seek help?

Glover: I was at a fundraising luncheon on trauma and PTSD. The keynote speaker didn’t mention fire fighters and EMS first in his

discussion of first responders. That made me really angry. He asked if anyone had questions. I spoke up. I don’t remember exactly what I said, but I went off on this guy in front of 100-plus people. A police officer I knew, who happened to be in recovery from PTSD as well, grabbed me. He told me to call the IAFF Center of Excellence and if I didn’t, he would. That was a Thursday. I was on a plane in less than a week.

IAFF: What was your experience in a treatment program exclusively for fire fighters?

Glover: It was the best thing, I was treated along with brothers and sisters who understood what I was going through.

IAFF: What would you say to other fire fighters who are reluctant to seek help for fear they’ll be judged by others in their department?

Glover: When you really need help, it doesn’t matter what anyone else thinks of you. Once you have received treatment, others will notice the change in you and appreciate that you are back and doing well. They can also help keep you on track by noticing any sign of relapse.

IAFF: Since completing treatment, how is your life different?

Glover: I brought home tools for controlling my issues. Meditation has really helped me. It’s been almost two years since I got help at the Center. Sharing my recovery story help keeps me straight; it’s uplifting.

IAFF: Since returning home from the Center of Excellence, how have your crew members, family or friends responded to you?

Glover: As normal, as they always have; they never judged me. They just knew I needed help, and I got it.

IAFF: What do you see as the biggest challenge to staying on track with your recovery, and how do you deal with it?

Glover: When I’m struggling, I can lean on my support group of fire, police, EMS, military and ER nurses. One night I shared that I was worried that I was regressing in my recovery. A police officer told me, “Ray, people are still going to piss you off.” I learned it’s okay to feel emotions. What matters is how I use my coping skills to get me through it.

IAFF: Since you graduated from the Center, do you still participate in aftercare treatment?

Glover: Absolutely. I see my psychiatrist once a month, psychologist twice a month and facilitate a first responder support group once a week.

IAFF: Is there one take away from your experience you want to share with other members?

Glover: The Center of Excellence will only work if you let it. Also, everyone needs tools to cope with stress and manage emotions. Meditation is my best tool; I practice it at least five times a week for 10-15 minutes. Even one minute of deep breathing helps. ■

If you are interested in sharing your recovery story, contact IAFF Behavioral Health Specialist Lauren Kosci at lkosci@iaff.org. The IAFF Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery is a unique treatment setting exclusively designed for IAFF members with depression, addiction, post-traumatic stress and other mental health concerns. Contact the Center of Excellence at (855) 999-9845 or visit www.iaffrecoverycenter.com.



Suffolk Local 2801 Fire Fighters Raise Thousands for **MDA** on 130-Mile Walk

Admittedly, 130 miles is a long way to walk, but Suffolk, VA Local 2801 members Joe Jarman and Travis Saunders say the five-day trek was worth it. Not only did their walk bring attention to a great cause, it also raised \$21,010 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).

“What better way to illustrate to the public the challenges neuromuscular disease patients face each day than doing something challenging ourselves,” says Jarman.

The walk from Virginia Beach to Richmond was not easy, but the two received support along the way from their fellow fire fighters and the public. Each night, they were given accommodations and an opportunity to recharge at various fire stations. During the day, the public cheered them on and donated to the cause.

“Joe and I both had boots strapped to our backs to receive donations as we were walking,” Saunders says. “People were running out of businesses and coming up to us on the street. We collected hundreds of dollars this way.”

Once they reached the final mile, the Local 2801 members were joined by other fire fighters and families who had received assistance from MDA.

At the Virginia State Capitol, the walkers were welcomed to a wrap-up celebration by Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources Daniel Cary and Virginia Professional Fire Fighters President Robert Bragg. ■



Suffolk Local 2801 members Joe Jarman and Travis Saunders raised more than \$21,000 for MDA.

“Joe and I both had boots strapped to our backs to receive donations as we were walking. People were running out of businesses and coming up to us on the street. We collected hundreds of dollars this way.”



IAFF Welcomes New Locals

The new IAFF affiliates listed below joined the International January through March 2019.

Local 1049

Stillwater Fire Fighters
President Chad Jansen
9 members
Stillwater, MN

Local 4792

Washington County Professional
EMS Association
President Kevin Davis
30 members
Canonsburg, PA

Local 5191

Caribou Professional Fire Fighters
Association
President Scott Dow
15 members
Caribou, ME

Local 5195

Boone County Professional
Fire Fighters Association
President Stephen Hayes
68 Members
Boone County, IN

Local 5201

Eaton Professional Fire Fighters
President James Quinn
4 members
Eaton, OH

Local 5202

White Bear Lake Professional Fire
Fighters Association
President Matthew Wenzel
8 members
White Bear Lake, MN

Local 5205

Oakland Fire Fighters Association
President Billy Huffman
7 members
Oakland, TN

Local 5206

Alamo Professional Fire Fighters
Association
President Liza Aguirre
12 members
Alamo, TX

Local 5207

Holmes Fire District #1
Professional Fire Fighters
President Ryan Wells
5 members
Millersburg, OH

Local 5208

Imperial County Fire Fighters
President Bobby Duenas, Jr
35 members
Imperial, CA

Local 5209

Association Des Pompiers Et Des
Pompieres De Shawinigan
President Benoit Ferland
44 members
Shawinigan, QC

Local 5210

Gladewater Professional
Fire Fighters Association
President John Moore
12 members
Gladewater, TX

Local 5211

Waynesboro Professional
Fire Fighters Association
President Tyler Myers
5 members
Waynesboro, PA

Local 5213

Hudson Professional
Fire Fighters Association
President Aaron Baker
23 members
Hudson, CO

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Nebraska Members Hit Hard by Flooding

In the aftermath of a bomb cyclone that swept across Nebraska bringing blizzard conditions, heavy rain and flooding, at least nine IAFF members' homes were damaged or destroyed in rising flood waters. In the eastern side of the state, which was hardest hit, Fremont Local 1015, Columbus Local 1575, Norfolk Local 1005 and Omaha Local 385 members reported the most damage. In Fremont, where flood waters were so high that all streets entering and leaving the city were impassable, the boat carrying a crew of seven Local 1015 members on their way to a rescue capsized. The crew needed to be pulled out by helicopter.

Nebraska Professional Fire Fighters Association President Darren Garrean says, "I'm so proud of the professionalism and dedication to duty our members displayed in the aftermath of this storm. Even our affected members reached out to me asking how they can help."

The IAFF provided disaster relief assistance to affected members in need. ■

Your Nutrition: Fast Food, Upgraded

With busy lives and busy shifts, it's easy to forget a meal or simply grab anything you can find while on the run. Sometimes it's at a gas station while filling up or from the closest drive-thru, with less than ideal options.

Here's a quick and easy go-to meal you can make in under a minute that will fill you up, keep you full and is loaded with high-quality nutrients to keep your body going — no matter what the day looks like.

One-Minute Smoothie*

This smoothie recipe is great for a post-workout snack, during a break while training or as a meal replacement on a busy day.

Ingredients:

- **1-2 cups mixed frozen berries** — *This can be anything you like. Dark berries are rich in antioxidants, which help fight against free radicals.*
- **1 scoop vanilla protein powder** — *This can be anything you like. If you don't like protein powder, consider another protein source such as Greek yogurt or collagen.*
- **1 handful of fresh spinach** — *Leafy greens are nutrient-rich, another defense to protect your cells.*



- **8-16 oz. almond milk or water** — *Any liquid will work, even real fruit juice. Just be mindful of the extra carbs and sugars contained in your choice.*

- **Optional: 1 tbsp avocado oil or ½ an avocado** — *This is a heart-healthy fat with mild flavor and adds additional healthy calories to your smoothie. A little goes a long way.*

Directions:

Add all ingredients in the order listed to a blender. Cover and blend, working up to the highest setting. Blend for at least 30 seconds or until fully mixed smooth. Pour and enjoy!

For more information about fire fighter nutrition, visit www.iaff.org/nutrition. ■

IAFF Confined Space Rescue Training Saves Life

When a female worker fell down a 180-foot by 36-inch culvert pipe while working at an area vineyard, members of Merced City, CA Local 1479 were the only certified confined space rescue team in the immediate response area — thanks to the IAFF, which had recently conducted its 40-hour Confined Space Rescue course at the Merced City Fire Department.

The team lowered a rescuer into the shaft and was able to attach a safety harness so that she

could be pulled to safety and transported to a hospital.

Accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board), the IAFF's Confined Space Rescue certification program provides participants with hands-on practice using their department's rescue equipment. "It was an amazing opportunity to host such a high-quality confined space training program from the IAFF," says Local

1479 President Chad Englert. "The hands-on experience was invaluable and helped our members respond with confidence." The training from the IAFF is funded through federal grants and is offered at no cost to affiliates. For more information, email hazmat@iaff.org. ■



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Maximize Your Healthcare Tax Benefits

If you use your pension fund or your 457 deferred compensation funds for healthcare expenses, consider taking advantage of a special healthcare tax benefit for retired fire fighters. The Health Care Enhancement for Local Public Safety Officers (HELPS) Act allows you to deduct up to \$3,000 annually from your pension fund on a pretax basis. Funds must be deposited directly from your pension to an insurance provider.



One way to take advantage of this tax benefit is to enroll in an Aetna Medicare Advantage PPO plan with prescription drug coverage sponsored by the IAFF Financial Corporation (IAFF-FC). The IAFF-FC teamed up with Aetna to design four

customized plan options. Plans are designed to fit any budget, with lower premiums and deductibles than you may currently be paying. These plans are for Medicare-eligible retired union fire fighters and spouses.



As an added bonus, an Aetna Medicare Advantage plan gives you access to hearing and vision benefits, the SilverSneakers fitness benefit and health and wellness programs, all at no extra cost. In addition, nurses are available to talk to you 24/7, as are care advocates who can help you manage complex conditions and the AbleTo behavioral health team can help coach you through a mental health or stress-related condition.

All four Aetna Medicare Advantage plans have an Extended Service Area (ESA), which means you can see any provider who accepts Medicare and is willing to accept your Aetna Medicare Advantage plan. Aetna has a large, nationwide network of providers, but you'll pay the same amount whether your doctor is in or out of network.

The enrollment period for the IAFF-FC Aetna Medicare Advantage plan is August 5–September 30, 2019. When you enroll, your new plan is effective January 1, 2020.

For more information about Aetna Medicare Advantage plans, visit iaff-fc.aetnamedicare.com. Beginning July 1, 2019, you can also call and speak to a member services advocate. ■

Canadian Locals Raise \$1.3 Million for MDC

Canadian IAFF locals continued a remarkable 64-year history of support for Muscular Dystrophy Canada (MDC), raising \$1.3 million for the charity in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019.

The support from IAFF locals, which is made possible by members who donate their time to fundraising events supported by a generous public, helps MDC deliver programs and services to people living with neuromuscular disorders and their families.

Last year, 102 Canadian locals held fundraising events for MDC, including boot

drives, stair climbs, ladder sits, golf tournaments, truck pulls and rooftop campouts.

Edmonton, AB Local 209 was the largest single fundraiser for MDC last year, raising \$129,063. Fredericton, NB Local 1053 was named MDC's Fire Department of the Year in recognition of its work and Montreal, QC Local 125 merited attention with its Highrise Challenge Stair Climb.

The programs and services supported by affiliates' fundraising include equipment to improve daily life, family and caregiver retreats, emotional and educational support and access to vital resources. ■



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NIOSH Begins Data Collection for National Firefighter Registry

Following the passage of the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act in July 2018, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is now directed to undertake the collection of detailed data on the occurrence of cancer in fire fighters.

The ultimate goal of the registry is to better understand the link between workplace exposures and cancer among fire fighters with the potential to provide a better understanding of cancer risk among under-represented populations of fire fighters.

Previous studies, including a study completed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in 2014, have highlighted fire fighters' increased risk for certain cancers compared to the general population. However, past studies have generally not included sufficient numbers of female and minority fire fighters to draw conclusions regarding their risk of cancer.

Furthermore, it's not fully understood how the risk of cancer varies with exposure or among fire fighters who are more likely to be exposed to products of combustion from burning of synthetic materials.

As an agency within the CDC, NIOSH has posted a Request for Information (RFI) to the

Federal Register regarding the National Firefighter Registry seeking input on an approach to the registry, including potential enrollment methods. All stakeholders, including fire fighters, are encouraged to review the document and respond with comments.

Once the registry design is finalized, CDC/NIOSH will begin enrollment. Where possible, CDC/NIOSH will collect work history and exposure records to explore the relationship between exposures and cancer. CDC/NIOSH will also link with state cancer registries to confirm diagnoses. Findings will be shared through scientific publications and communications to stakeholders and the public.

From the registry information, CDC/NIOSH will estimate an overall rate of cancer for fire fighters and determine if certain groups of fire fighters are at a higher risk of cancer than others based on level of exposure, geography, gender or other factors, as well as study certain protective measures associated with a reduced risk for cancer, which could provide additional evidence and support for specific control interventions.



The registry is completely voluntary, and no one can force you to join. CDC/NIOSH will never collect information on any fire fighter without their informed consent. The CDC/NIOSH is interested in having all fire fighters participate in the registry, not just those with a cancer diagnosis or other health conditions.

Active and retired IAFF members are encouraged to join the registry, regardless of current health status.

CDC/NIOSH will always maintain privacy and will never share personal information with an outside organization, including fire departments, unions or other researchers without permission of the registry participant.

The IAFF and our affiliates worked diligently for more than two years with a bipartisan group of lawmakers to help pass the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act.

For more information, contact the IAFF Division of Occupational Health and Safety at (202) 824-1571. ■



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Legislation Introduced to Identify the Presence of PFAS in Federal Fire Fighters

For more than four decades, toxic substances — known as PFAS — have been present in firefighting foam used by Department of Defense (DoD) fire fighters, yet the full extent of their exposure remains unknown. To better understand the levels of exposure, the IAFF joined with U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and U.S. Representatives Donald Norcross (D-NJ) and Mike Turner (R-OH) to author and introduce the Protecting Military Fire Fighters From PFAS Act.



The bills, HR 1863 in the House and S 858 in the Senate, would require DoD fire fighters to be tested to determine the presence of PFAS in the body as part of their annual physicals.

“The IAFF fully supports the medical monitoring called for by the Protecting Military Fire Fighters From PFAS Act,” says General President Harold Schaitberger. “These fire fighters dedicate their careers to protecting the public and our military, and it is incumbent on the DoD to monitor their levels of PFAS toxins.”

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has declared PFAS as toxic substances, and recommends an individual lifetime exposure limit of 70 parts per trillion. But because of their normal exposure to PFAS-laden foam on the job, DoD fire fighters are likely to exceed this lifetime limit.

Toxic PFAS enter the body through inhalation, absorption and ingestion, and have been linked to a variety of illnesses or health conditions, including thyroid, bladder, kidney and liver cancers, diabetes, and elevated cholesterol. Furthermore, because PFAS are bioaccumulative and remain in the body for two to nine years following exposure, the dangers from repeated exposure — such as faced by DoD fire fighters — make risks posed by the substance even greater.

“The IAFF fully supports the medical monitoring called for by the Protecting Military Fire Fighters From PFAS Act. These fire fighters dedicate their careers to protecting the public and our military, and it is incumbent on the DoD to monitor their levels of PFAS toxins.”

— General President Harold Schaitberger

The bill was featured as a key legislative issue at the recent IAFF Legislative Conference, and response to the bill’s introduction in the House and Senate has been largely positive. Testing DoD fire fighters for PFAS will help them and their physicians better plan for and respond to their own health issues, as well as allow occupational medicine physicians at military bases to better follow exposure trends. Additionally, because DoD fire fighters already undergo an annual physical, including blood collection and testing, the cost of the legislation is expected to be relatively low.

The IAFF intends to pursue this legislation aggressively with the hope of enacting it in the current Congress. ■

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IAFF Committed to Permanently Funding 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund

While the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States were nearly 20 years ago, the IAFF — along with the Uniformed Firefighters Association (UFA) Local 94 and the Uniformed Fire Officers Association (UFOA) Local 854 — continues to fight to pass legislation to permanently fund the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) to ensure fire fighters and first responders diagnosed with cancer, respiratory disease and other illnesses as a result of their rescue and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center receive full compensation now and into the future as more become sick or die.

General President Harold Schaitberger says, “Our members are being diagnosed with life-threatening and debilitating 9/11-related illnesses. We will not stop until we pass this bill to make the VCF permanent and ensure our members — and others who selflessly responded to Ground Zero — have access to the care they deserve.”

1st District Vice President James Slevin says, “Cancer and other diseases can take 15-20 years to manifest. Every week, new 9/11-related cancer cases are diagnosed. We must honor the selfless acts of our members

by keeping the VCF funded, ensuring they receive medical treatment.”

The IAFF reached out to its allies in the U.S. House and Senate to introduce the Never Forget the Heroes: Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act (HR 7062/S 3591) to permanently fund the VCF.

Understanding the importance and urgency, many U.S. representatives and senators have immediately signed on as sponsors. Already, some individuals are only receiving 50 percent of the benefit they are eligible for because available funds are running out.

UFA Local 94 President Gerard Fitzgerald says, “Our first responders sacrificed their own health and safety to save the lives of others. This fund eases the tremendous burden of financial distress caused by the debilitating and sometimes life-threatening nature of the illnesses they now have. Congress must do the right thing and keep the VCF funded.”

UFOA Local 854 President James Lemonda says, “Immediately following the 2001 attacks, our elected officials promised to always take care of those who responded to Ground Zero and became ill due to exposure. All we want is

for them to make good on that promise.”

During the Alfred K. Whitehead Legislative Conference in March, the IAFF and hundreds of affiliate leaders lobbied on Capitol Hill to add new sponsors and secure passage of the legislation.

As all 100 U.S. senators and nearly every member of the House of Representatives count World Trade Center responders or survivors among their constituents, IAFF leaders met with their congressional representatives urging them to not only support the bill, but to sign on as cosponsors.

The IAFF has since armed local and state affiliate leadership with educational videos and talking points to use in their ongoing lobbying efforts.

Currently, as of press time, 102 additional cosponsors have signed on in the House, as well as 14 additional cosponsors in the Senate, bringing the combined total to 278 sponsors — more than enough votes needed to pass the bill.

Without this legislation, claims can no longer be submitted after December 18, 2020. ■

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Local 341 Stands Strong After Retaliatory Layoffs in Houston

Hundreds of Houston, TX Local 341 members received unprecedented layoff and demotion notices in May as Mayor Sylvester Turner continued his political and legal attacks on fire fighters and their families.

The retaliatory layoffs and demotions follow Local 341's decisive victory in last November's elections as voters overwhelmingly approved Prop B, a citizen petition measure granting Houston's fire fighters pay parity with city police officers. Since 2011, Houston police have received 37 percent raises while Houston fire fighters received only 3 percent. Voters approved pay parity in a 59-41 percent vote.

The IAFF has had the backs of Local 341 members from the onset of this battle in 2016.

"We have been in this fight from the very first day that rotten mayor turned his back on our Houston local," says 11th District Vice President Sandy McGhee. "We've been there for the rallies and marches. We've been there with data, research and significant financial resources, and we'll be there to assist our local to the very end of this battle and beyond."

In the months leading into the fall election, the IAFF supported Local 341's efforts to pass Prop B, providing media and public relations assistance and contributing FIREPAC dollars.

"Houston's fire fighters risk their lives for the citizens of their city every day, and have earned the right to ask for competitive pay without having to face political retribution," says General President Harold Schaitberger. "It's time for Mayor Turner to stop neglecting our Houston members and do what is right for public safety."

In the six months since the election, Turner has spent nearly \$1 million in taxpayer funds for outside lawyers in a legal campaign to reverse Prop B in defiance of 298,000 Houston voters — nearly three times the number of voters who elected him mayor in 2015.



Houston Local 341 President Marty Lancton says, "Our members are grateful for the support of Prop B voters and the people we serve in our city, and to IAFF members everywhere. In 2015, fire fighters canvassed 75,000 homes for this mayor, and he won by 4,000 votes. This time, he may regret turning his back on Prop B voters. We have a long fight ahead, but we will continue to deliver excellent service to the citizens and do what's right in the meantime."

In addition to the legal attacks, Turner threatened layoffs, refused to meet with Local 341 and, while claiming to implement Prop B, still refuses to disclose whether, when and how he will respect the will of the voters and fully implement pay parity.

Turner teamed up with the Houston police officer union to file a lawsuit to block Prop B's implementation, winning a temporary injunction. Local 341 responded, and one week later, a judge ruled in favor of Local 341, throwing out the injunction. Local 341 is awaiting several court rulings that will affect the direction of Prop B.

Turner has also used Houston's latest fire recruit class as political hostages. Citing an ever-changing cost to implement Prop B, he refused to swear in dozens of recruits, keeping

them classified as municipal employees and not public safety employees. Prior to the layoffs, they were in limbo at the training academy, tasked with manual labor, such as raking leaves, rolling hose, digging holes, pouring concrete and chopping wood.

The mayor recently announced a so-called city hiring freeze, but the city has since hired hundreds of police and municipal employees, while announcing 220 fire fighter layoffs and 454 demotions.

In recent months, the IAFF has urged other national unions to stand in solidarity with Local 341. The Communications Workers of America and the American Federation of Teachers have strongly supported Local 341, providing a solid threat to Turner's re-election efforts.

And in March, after a full-court press from the IAFF, the Democratic National Committee determined that Turner's vindictive treatment of Local 341 was a factor in awarding the 2020 Democratic National Convention to Milwaukee, delivering another shot at Turner's re-electability.

The IAFF continues to be engaged with Local 341 and stands ready to provide assistance in the months ahead as the local looks to unseat the incumbent mayor this fall. ■

Division of Health and Safety Poised to Better Meet Members' Needs

As the medical, clinical and operational aspects of our union's work to protect members' health and safety have increased, we have also significantly expanded the programs, services and resources within the Division of Occupational Health, Safety and Medicine.

To ensure we keep up with the pace of the needs of our affiliates and continue to grow resources to help our members have a safe and healthy career, as well as a long and healthy retirement, the Division has been divided into two distinct departments under Assistant to the General President Pat Morrison.

The Department of Occupational and Behavioral Health Services, led by Director Will Newton — formerly president and business agent with Pinellas County, FL Local 4966 — is responsible for delivering the medical/clinical, behavioral health, occupational cancer and research programs and services. His extensive experience as a local president, Partnership Education Program (PEP) instructor and 12th District Field Service Representative gives him a strong foundation to build this department. In addition, John Niemiec has been promoted from the Governmental Affairs Department to serve as the deputy director

for the Occupational and Behavioral Health Services Department.

The Department of Health and Safety Operational Services — led by Director Rick Swan, who has served as director of wildland firefighting for the last four years — provides the operational, standards/codes development and training programs. Filling the deputy director position is Grady Valencis, a member of Prince George's County, MD Local 1619 since 1993. He has also served as an IAFF Fire Ground Survival master instructor since 2012. Valencis replaces Deputy Director Larry Petrick, who retired in April. ■

Idaho Local Elects All Female Executive Board

With women making up only about 4 percent of fire fighters, the all-female executive board of Teton County, ID Local 4667 is truly unique among IAFF affiliates.

IAFF 7th District Vice President Ricky Walsh says, “We celebrate as our union leadership becomes more diverse.” He says the 7th District recognizes the lack of diversity in the fire service and is striving to address this issue through programs such as the IAFF Elected Human Relations Committee and the 7th District New Member Conference.

Teton County Fire and Rescue, which is 13 percent women, is a combination department.

It’s only natural that some of the department’s women were elected into leadership roles. “We are a small local of 18 members, so we take turns in various leadership positions,” says Local 4667 President Charis Schreiber, a 20-year veteran fire fighter.

“I think we make a great team,” says Secretary-Treasurer Corey Gittus, the first woman to join the fire department in 2011. “We all are in positions that fit our skill sets. I

look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together.”

Local 4667 Vice President Rebecca Parkinson agrees. “It is important for us to have a voice, and not just during contract negotiations. That’s how we ensure membership needs are being met and that we stay safe on the job.”

Schreiber always wanted to be a fire fighter and began working on her fire science degree immediately after high school. In 2007, she first became a member of Kootenai County, ID Local 2856 before she later moved to Teton County and became a member of Local 4667 in 2016.

Gittus was introduced to emergency services as a ski patroller. She trained to be an EMT and was encouraged to also take basic fire fighter training. As it turns out, she really liked it and wanted to continue, so she joined the department.

When Parkinson first moved to Idaho, she became an instructor for backcountry



Pictured from left: Local 4667 Secretary-Treasurer Gittus, President Schreiber and Vice President Parkinson. The three serve on one of the few (if not the only) all-female IAFF affiliate executive boards.

leadership expeditions. During the winter months, she worked as a ski patroller and trained avalanche search dogs. This is where she developed an interest in becoming a fire fighter and eventually joined Teton County Fire and Rescue. ■

Mount Pleasant Local 4693 Wins Increased Staffing

Good things are happening for Mount Pleasant, SC Local 4693, including winning approval for a five-year plan to increase staffing and other fire department resources.

With help from the IAFF and the South Carolina Professional Fire Fighters Association (SCPFFA), Local 4693 backed a fire fighter-friendly candidate who is making public safety a priority, while also affecting a change in department leadership.

“This five-year plan will help our members respond more safely and effectively to emergencies,” says General President Harold Schaitberger. “I commend the SCPFFA and Mount Pleasant Local 4693 for all their incredible work and determination.”

“The success of this effort shows what happens when you don’t give up,” says 12th District Vice President Walt Dix. “The result will mean our members will be safer on the job and be able to deliver a better service to the community.”

In recent years, the population in Mount Pleasant has grown and the number of emergency calls has also increased, while fire department resources — including the number of fire fighters — have not.

Two years ago, when General President Schaitberger, General Secretary-Treasurer Edward Kelly and 12th District Vice President



General President Schaitberger, General Secretary-Treasurer Kelly and 12th District Vice President Dix visited Mount Pleasant’s Station 4 to discuss staffing concerns with the members of Local 4693.

Dix stopped by one of Mount Pleasant’s fire stations to meet with members, the discussion on staffing ended abruptly when then-Fire Chief Herbert Williams asked them to leave.

“We knew we needed to bring about change,” says SCPFFA Vice President Bill Pesature. “We needed to become more politically involved.”

Seeing the local’s concerns about staffing, retired Uniformed Fire Officers Association (UFOA) Local 854 member Kevin Cunnane, who had moved to Mount Pleasant, decided to run for town council. With support from the

IAFF and the SCPFFA, Cunnane won a special election to finish out the unexpired term of Will Haynie, who had been elected mayor.

Cunnane worked to educate the town’s decision makers, holding regular meetings to discuss the impact of inadequate resources on public and fire fighter safety.

Meanwhile, when Chief Williams retired in 2018, the fire department promoted Mike Mixon, a 15-year veteran of the Mount Pleasant Fire Department, to deputy chief. As a result, two veteran fire fighters moved into the second and third top-ranking department positions.

Local 4693 President Luke Witherspoon says, “They know first-hand the challenges we have been facing. That helped a lot.”

As part of the five-year plan, the town has increased the fire department’s budget by \$250,000, hired six fire fighters and applied for a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant. The goal is to have four fire fighters on every apparatus.

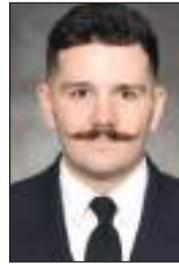
“It is certainly a step in the right direction,” says Witherspoon. Other challenges include increasing wages to be more competitive with surrounding municipal departments. ■

Truro Local 1627 Member Skyler Blackie Mourned

Fire fighters from as far away as Vancouver, British Columbia, and Boston, Massachusetts, were among the 2,000 who filled a hockey arena in Truro, Nova Scotia, March 30 for the funeral of a Truro Local 1627 member Skyler Blackie, who died as the result of a tragic training accident.

Blackie, 28, was critically injured March 9 while handling a fire extinguisher at the Nova Scotia Firefighters School in Waverley, Nova Scotia. He died of his injuries on March 20.

A Truro fire fighter since October 2013, Blackie is described as having had a passion for fire fighting and as a charismatic, funny, outgoing and kind individual who touched everybody's heart. He led his firehall's charity committee and donated his time to several causes, including breast cancer and prostate cancer fundraising and awareness.



Skyler Blackie

Truro Local 1627 President Maurice Colpitts says the loss has taken a toll on the close-knit 17-member local. "The impact is very personal for everyone at different levels," he says.

A moment of silence was held for Blackie at the 26th Canadian Legislative Conference in Ottawa on April 10. He had attended the conference as a delegate just last year.

Among those paying tribute at the funeral service was 15th District Vice President David Burry, who said, "Despite the hazards and the uncertainties of his chosen profession, he did his job without hesitation. Whenever you, the public, would call for assistance, he was always there. Skyler, my friend, my brother, rest in peace. We will take it from here."

Blackie's sacrifice is eligible for recognition under the Memorial Grant Program for First Responders, which was implemented in 2018 by the Canadian government as a direct result of IAFF lobbying. The program provides the surviving family with a grant of \$300,000 for Blackie's service and sacrifice.

The accident is still under investigation, but the school has been served with two compliance orders requiring it to remove its fire extinguishers for inspection and to provide all training and certification records.

Blackie is survived by his wife, Erin, his parents, his sister Jessica and his brother, Errison, who is also a fire fighter and member of Local 1627. ■

Ohio Local Works to Preserve Memory of Fallen Brother

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base fire fighter Frank A. Smith died in the line of duty in 1932, a fact that may have been lost had Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Local F-88 Secretary-Treasurer Steven McKee not stumbled across information about Smith.

While on a tour of a building on base, the base historian showed McKee an old booklet once provided to civilians for a self-driving tour of the base. Inside the book was a dedication of Building 76 — the former Fire Station 3 — to Frank A. Smith, who died in the performance of his duties.

"My curiosity was sparked immediately," says McKee. "Since the guide provided so little information, initially, I just wanted to know



more. One of my first stops was the Greene County Public Library."

McKee worked with the librarian to find Smith's death certificate and relatives. But the relatives were very distant and could not provide much additional information. Other public records confirmed Smith had been a fire fighter who died in the line of duty on September 15, 1932. On that day, Smith and his fellow fire fighters had been called to respond to an acetylene tank fire at a motor pool facility. Smith sustained third degree burns to several parts of his body. He would later die of his injuries.

After further research, it was discovered that Smith was buried in an unmarked grave. Local F-88 members turned to local businesses for

assistance, and Dodd's Monuments agreed to donate a marker for Smith.

In 2012, a re-dedication ceremony took place at Smith's grave site that included several fire fighter traditions, such as the sounding of the Last Alarm and the Presentation of the Flag.

"We wanted to make sure his name lives on and that the sacrifice of this fallen brother was properly acknowledged," says McKee.

Local F-88 has continued to work to ensure Smith's sacrifice is never forgotten.

In 2015, Smith's name was added to the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial. And soon, McKee hopes to replace the plaque for Smith at the old Fire Station 3 with one that more accurately depicts Smith's service and sacrifice. ■

Danny Valenzuela Campaign for Mayor Calls Attention to Public Safety Issues

Phoenix, AZ Local 493 member Danny Valenzuela, like his fellow IAFF members, is always ready to answer the call to serve his community. While his recent campaign for mayor of Phoenix did not go his way, it did call attention to important public safety issues in the fifth largest city in the country.

"The IAFF will always support one of our own in elections for public office and Danny Valenzuela is definitely one of us," says General President Harold Schaitberger. "I am proud of the work Danny and his team put into his incredible campaign."

Phoenix Local 493 President Steve Beuerlein says, "Our members and members across the state came out in support of Danny. They had boots on the ground in every community — it was truly a great effort."

Valenzuela, a 17-year veteran Glendale fire fighter and Local 493 member, had served on the Phoenix City Council for six years when then-Mayor Greg Stanton resigned to run for a U.S. congressional seat. Seeing an opportunity to

give more to his community, he decided to run in the mayoral special election to finish out Stanton's term, which ends in 2020.

"As fire fighters and first responders, we are programmed to be problem solvers and community servants," says Valenzuela. "I was ready to answer the call to be a leader in my community and improve public safety, facilitate economic growth and increase education opportunities."

Local 493 Political Affairs Director Tim Knobbe and Political Director Arick O'Hara — both IAFF Political Training Academy graduates — were on the ground organizing all aspects of the campaign. Also on Team Valenzuela were Local 493 members Chris Carlott, Nick Haney and Matt Cottini.



The IAFF also put significant resources into the campaign, including providing political and communications expertise.

In the nonpartisan primary election in November 2018, Valenzuela and fellow democratic council member Kate Gallego received the most votes, but neither earned more than 50 percent, leading to the March 2019 runoff.

"Even though the election did not go my way, I am proud of the campaign we ran," says Valenzuela. "I will continue to answer the call to serve. My goal has always been and will continue to be to make a positive difference in my community." ■

On the Road

WITH THE GENERAL PRESIDENT

Throughout his travels on behalf of the IAFF and its affiliates,

General President Harold Schaitberger visits firehouses and union halls and attends other state and provincial events



During the IAFF Canadian Legislative Conference, General President Harold Schaitberger met with Local 162 President John Sobey, Secretary-Treasurer Erik Leicht, Vice President Victor Dillabaugh and several Ottawa members at Station 11.



IAFF Retirees

A Salute to Dedication, Service and Courage

ALABAMA L0117 Birmingham—Sean Argo, Donald Baker, Shomond Harris, Quanterius Jones, Albert Snow, **L0454 Gadsden**—Charlie Etheridge, **L1437 Decatur**—M. Randy Brown, Brett Cole, Glen Hunter, Wesley Lenz, Brandon Norwood, Jon Palmer, Michael Poole, **L1833 Huntsville**—Rance Church, **L3301 Hueytown**—C. M. Honea, **L4035 Hoover**—Quintel Walker, **L4066 Irontdale**—John Mize, **L5049 Pelham Fire Fighters Association**—Ricky King

ARKANSAS L0034 Little Rock—Ryan Baker, Keith Barentine, Gabe Beatty, Richard Miller, Jeffrey Porter, **L0879 Hot Springs**—Thomas Hopkins, Dean McDaniel, **L2030 Jacksonville**—Rodney Ashley, Samuel Ford, Mark Looney, **L2276 Malvern**—Steve Lucas

ALBERTA L0209 Edmonton Fire Fighters Union—Reg Axani, Darcy Bell, Timothy Bohachyk, Dave Campbell, Paul Carter, Peter Karkanis, Steve Koper, Frank Krzanstek, Brian LeVesque, Dave Morawski, Bruce Ouellette, Dale Rushfeldt, Lloyd Tally, **L0255 Calgary**—Allan Ball, Roland Couto, Bruce Gelhorn, Dave Lockwood, Howard Merkosky, Henrik Ormstrup, Randal Pollock, Robert Simmonds, Eldon Sleeman, Harley Spate, Roger Stotschek, Paul Wilkinson, **L0263 Medicine Hat**—Warren Bridge, Terry Stuber, **L1190 Red Deer**—Steve Gailoux, **L2494 Ft. McMurray**—Al Wenzlawe, **L3021 Spruce Grove** Robert Jonker, **L4794 Rocky View County Fire Fighters Union**—Jason McKeown

ARIZONA F0142 Yuma—Martin Loterbauer, **I0060 United Emergency Medical Professionals Of Arizona**—Michael Hockett, Tyler Stuart, **L0479 Tucson**—Audy Amos, Loraine Clark, Denise Comby, Ariel Hernandez, Jeffrey Mayhew, Kathy Meril, Richard Quezada, Linda Schauf, Michael Smith, **L0493 Phoenix**—David Calles, Karli Camelli, Matthew Fenicle, Damon Flori, Dan Kuefner, Kenneth Leake, Michael McComb, Darryl Mobley, Kevin Moore, Matthew Powers, Richard Ramella, Jay Shaver, John Suddarth, Mike Velasco, Scott Williams, **L1234 Yuma**—Michael Caltabiano, Joseph Nevlis, **L2260 Mesa**—Kasey Beal, Scott Crawford, **L2763 Nogales**—Alex Flores, Francisco Teran, **L3066 United Yavapai**—David Johnson, **L3573 United Sun Cities Fire Fighters**—Gary Green, Jeff Hummel, **L3690 Sedona-Verde**—Steven Trautman, **L3832 North Tucson Fire Fighters**—Andrew Ballmann, **L3878 United Maricopa County Fire Fighters Association**—Kenneth Garibaldi, Sandra Silverman, **L4125 Green Valley**—Jeffrey Mooney, **L4191 United Professional Fire Fighters Of Kingman**—Porter Williams, **L4944 Old Pueblo Fire Fighters Association**—Kevin Kincaid, Rob Sutherland, **L5050 United Scottsdale Fire Fighters Association**—George Ford

BRITISH COLUMBIA L0018 Vancouver—Jeff Coroliuc, Richard Czech, James Kolsrud, James Lockey, Colin McIntyre, William Nicol, **L0256 New Westminster**—Trevor Tougas, **L0730 Victoria**—Rick Brown, **L0953 Kelowna**—Brian Moore, **L0967 Saanich**—Rob Paton, **L1271 Surrey**—Erv Janzen, Scott McKinlay, Rory Murphy, Tom Stiebel, Lorraine Wilson, **L1286 Richmond**—Mark Brevner, Jeremy Duncan, Grant Klies, Barry Knapp, Bjarne McKnight, Alex Van Bruksvoort, Leo Van Den Boogaard, **L1298 Powell River**—Mickey Adam, **L1372 Prince George**—Dana Griswold, **L1399 Penticton**—Graham Vujcich, Ken Younghusband, **L1525 West Vancouver**—Marcia James, **L3253 Langley City**—Rob Gunn, **L3791 Salmon Arm**—Rhoderick MacFarlane, James Nickles, **L4428 Central Saanich Fire Fighters**—John Robertson, **L4810 Pitt Meadows Fire Fighters**—Hans Hoffman

CALIFORNIA F0033 San Diego—Jeff Johnson, Patrick Perez, **F0102 Lemoore Naval Air Station**—Robert Huffman, **F0156 Imperial Valley**—Earl Hutchinson, **L0055 Oakland, Alameda County And Emeryville**—James Call, Charles Garcia, Richard Lapora, Thomas Marshall, Kevin Stange, Frank Wynn, **L0112 Los Angeles City**—Robert Aragon, Mark Arnold, Steve Canchola, Ricardo Carmona, Gary Cline, David Corral, Keith Crownover, John Englund, Jack Fry, Gilbert Garcia, William Harris, Ronny Holguin, Garabed Karaoglanian, Derek LeDuff, Julio Maldonado, Vincent Manzo, Scott Miller, Darryl Mitchell, Michael Padilla, Kevin Rex, Michael Samudio, Luther Sherman, Donald Welcker, **L0188 Richmond**—Nicholas Jackalone, Robin Poindexter, **L0230 San Jose**—Bryan Aquino, Doug Biddle, Richard Constantine, James Froisland, Kelly Kersten, Clayton Markel, David Moore, Matthew Paiss, Eric Peters, Sandra Wells, **L0246 Bakersfield**—Danny Brown, Dale Bryan, Pat Caprioli, Lorrain Gee, **L0372 Long Beach**—Thomas Crewse, Aaron Miles, Michael Nadolski, Megan Sorenson, G. J. Starckenberg, Lisa Tatham, **L0456 Stockton**—Brian Elting, **L0522 Sacramento**—Jerome MacKenzie, **L0525 Santa Barbara City**—Scott Aguilar, Robyn Dimizio, Rich Griguoli, Ann Marx, Gina Sunseri, **L0689 Alameda**—Bret Coggiola, James Colburn, Kara Schelin, **L0798 San Francisco**—Michael Ahern, Helen Aquio-Kieffer, Tim Areja, Peter Amautoff, Rachael Atchison, Rebecca Atwater, Andrew Birkhoff, Greg Blatman, Allen Bogdanoff, Melany Brandon, Mike Breiling, Darryl Brewster, Edward Campbell, Wing Chan, David Chavez, Virginia Cheung, Jerry Chiang, Seaborn Chiles, John Christy, Geoffrey Clayton, Jay Cleland, Sara Coe, Robert Coleman, Jeff Columбини, John Cremen, Frank Cuffe, Richard Currie, Charles Daley, Jennifer DeBerry, Jon Del Bino, Anthony Dumont, Daniel Dunningan, Mark Gradney, Nikki Griffey, Emhardt Grothoff, Rudy Guajardo, Nathan Hardy, Leonardo Harris, Alan Harvey, Christopher Hazen, Nicholas Holl, Joseph Horton, Carlos Hoy, Jonathan Huggins, Ernest Johnson, Michael Jones, Fernando Juarez, Arthur Kenney, Rohan Knight, Juan La Chica, Philip Lee, Tony Lew, William Linney, Benjamin Lopez, Craig Louie, Gregory Louie, Wallace Loney, Marilyn Lum, Douglas Manguiat, Stephen Marcotte, Robert Mateik, Michelle McCoy, Reyner Medina, Vincent Milano, Eric Montalvo, Edward Moy, Dwight Newton, Dwayne Newton, Jeanine Nicholson, George Nonomura, Derek O'Leary, David Owen, Morgan Pettit, Allen Posey, Caroline Priem, Pete Putrus, Robert Reed, Cristeio Reyes, Kirk Richardson, Russell Roby, Jon Sargent, Scott Scholzen, Jeanne Seyler, Patrick Shea, George Smith, Prisco Somontan, Douglas Spikes, Jennifer Stow, Shirley Szela, Tilafaiga Ta'ape, Andrew Thomas, Timothy Tiernan, Martien Verhaeg, Joaquin Villarreal, Richard Wendland, Leon White, Steven Williams, Robert Winslow, John Won, Michael Wong, Barry Wong, Michie Wong, Sebastian Wong, Greg Wyrsch, **L0935 San Bernardino County**—Keith Baum, Rick Housley, Ryan Webb, **L1067 Riverside City**—Patrick Gabler, **L1109 Santa Monica**—John Hardie, Gerald Parker, **L1171 Santa Clara**—Vincent Lucero, Gordon Papalias, **L1186 Fire Fighters Local 1186**—James Bryant, Shawn Core, **L1218 Seaside**—Brian Lepai, **L1230 Contra Costa County**—Victor Massenkoff, **L1272 Watsonville**—John Martorella, Robert Ryan, **L1289 Modesto**—Tom Cabrera, Mark Gonzales, Randy Hutsell, Donald Lyman, **L1301 Kern County**—James Eckroth, Roy Heimiller, Christopher Hoover, Ronald Stamps, Kevin Trueblood, Robert Vradenburg, **L1364 Ventura County**—Condee Blackwood, Steven Gerhardt, Ken Kappen, Rick Mora, Raymond Ruiz, Richard Sauer, **L1401 Santa Rosa**—Lawrence Martinez, **L1430 Ontario**—William

Crouch, Martin Perez, Mark Zinda, **L1475 Coronado Fire Fighters Association**—Eric Hingeley, **L1592 Roseville Fire Fighters**—Rob Arnett, David Hall, **L1622 Fallbrook Fire Fighters Association**—Richard Bastien, Danny Delgado, **L1689 Fremont**—Brad Budinger, Doug Henninger, Don Linneman, Steven Promes, Steven Silva, **L1775 Marin Professional Fire Fighters**—Robert Ground, Shawn Kreps, Eric MacAusland, Jeffrey Rowan, Michael St. John, Paul Tiffany, **L1934 Redding**—Michael Holst, **L2046 Santa Barbara County**—Arnold Brooks, Manuel Burquez, Randall Harris, Kenneth Murray, Ray Navarro, Steven Oaks, James Sechler, Peter Ysebrands, David Zaniboni, **L2197 San Gabriel City**—David Pacela, **L2384 Orange City**—Michael Belson, Dennis Cole, **L2400 San Mateo County**—Robert Davis, Michael Miller, John Murphy, **L2606 Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District**—Robert Madrid, **L2734 Chico**—Mike Murphy, **L2744 National City**—Paul Kane, **L2881 Cal Fire Local 2881**—Travis Alexander, Clifford Allen, Ronald Arbo, Emmanuel Beckius, Leanne Berggreen, Anthony Bertrand, Michael Birondo, Aaron Bishop, Neil Black, Timothy Bozarth, Ronald Bravo, Steve Brooker, Douglas Cade, Troy Cheek, Robert DelaRosa, David Derum, Steven Diaz, Judson Duffy, Tuan Flower, Russell Fowler, John Godwin, Mark Gradek, Patricia Granillo, Randall Greenlee, Ryan Griffin, Jeffrey Harper, Russell Henly, Kenneth Kanawyer, David Kassik, Martin King, David Laclair, Wilhelm Maisch, Jeffrey McCarroll, Kevin McCully, Greg McFadden, Jason Neuman, Tracy Norrie, Scott Palmer, Kenneth Pimlott, Daryl Pina, Kenneth Pridmore, Cecil Rea, Kevin Reed, William Rosebraugh, Rudy Sanchez, Stephen Shoemaker, Steve Spinharney, Patrick Tomlinson, Bodi Tunheim, Scott Upton, Lloyd Veik, Ken Warnock, **L2899 Anaheim Fire Fighters Association**—Darryl Meekhof, **L3124 Napa City**—Scott Hampy, **L3354 Huntington Beach**—Robert Culhane, David Ferguson, Roger Korsiak, Sam Moses, **L3355 Tracy City**—Edward McMahon, Eddie Ramos, **L3507 Santa Fe Springs Fireman's Association**—Michael Crook, Danny Drake, Chris Gardea, Jay Joiner, Richard Kallman, Paul MacKay, Thomas McGauley, Anthony Mora, Robert Mora, Brenda Nelson, Karl Nicholas, Brian Reparuk, Shane Sanford, Darren Spothelner, Robert Yellen, Mike Yule, **L3546 San Ramon Valley**—David Stevens, **L3601 Palm Springs Fire Fighters Association**—George Smith, **L3624 La Verne**—David Benson, John Fowlkes, Kevin Palm, **L3631 Orange County Professional Fire Fighters Association**—James Boswell, Daniel Cassidy, Curtis Morrison, Andrew Ogren, James Stark, Kirk Tobiassen, **L3654 Cathedral City**—Terry Martin, **L3725 Morro Bay Fire Fighters Association**—George Rees, **L3730 Carlsbad**—William Clark, Randy Dumont, Craig Gates, Jeffrey Pachek, **L3734 Newport Beach**—Steve Michael, Rick Zaccaro, **L3757 Corona Fire Fighters Association**—Ronald Cloer, **L3779 Solana Beach**—Greg Wright, **L4107 Vista**—Mark Gray, **L4692 Imperial Beach Fire Fighters Association**—Paul Favor, **L4759 Heartland Fire Fighters of La Mesa**—Steve Brewer, **L5187 Valley Center Fire Fighters Association**—Darrin Ward

COLORADO L0003 Pueblo—George Whyte, **L0005 Colorado Springs**—Michael Lazor, Randolph Royal, Lisa Smith, **L0858 Denver**—Steven Atencio, Daniel Barker, Darla Beirne, Larry Bishop, Mitchell Buller, Kim Burke, Thomas Burton, Richard Cerrone, Jason Cole, Richard Compton, Angela Cook, Michael S. Devlin, Daniel Diaz, Mary Donlon, Colley Fisher, David Frank, Michael Garcia, Thomas Givlar, Joseph Gonzales, Anthony Gonzalez, Bradley Harriman, Joseph Hart, Kelsey Harter, James Hawes, James Hee, Scott Heiss, John Hering, Luciano Hernandez, Craig Hilton, David Howard, Webster Ireland, Mark Jacobson, Tina Jacobson, Michael Jeffries, Richard Johnson, John Jonke, Chris Kennedy, Pierre LaCaille, Jacqueline Larson, Christopher Lindley, Shawn Lord, James Lynch, Thomas Mahoney, Edward Martinez, James Martinez, Neal Mendel, Danny Metherd, Jerald Metherd, Marcos Montoya, Richard Montrose, David Moore, Ronald Morrow, Roy Nylander, Martin Ocanna, William Oliver, Robin Peltz, Gabriela Perez, Debra Peterson, Ronald Preeson, Barton Richards, Kerry Rodaway, Kurt Salley, John Sandoval, Kenneth Schave, Vernie Scott, Charles

Smith, Michael Smith, Steve Snyder, David Spialek, Stephen St. Clair, Michael Tealer, Anton Usaj, John Vasquez, Carlos Vela, Joseph Vigil, Stephen Welch, Eric Wethington, Steven Winters, Dean Yoder, Larry Yribia, **L1309 West Metro Fire Fighters**—Jeffrey James, Joseph Welter, **L2203 North Metro**—Mahlon Miller, Richard Randall, **L4056 Arvada**—Scott Burns

CONNECTICUT **I0069 Pratt & Whitney Aircraft**—George Bardell, Edward Smith, **L0786 Stamford Professional Fire Fighters Association**—James Arndt, Rocky Davis, Antonio Forte, Joseph Lombardo, Charles Spaulding, **L0834 Bridgeport**—Daniel Ortiz, **L0998 Stratford**—Michelle Moss, **L1042 Greenwich**—Christopher Kear, Thomas Nixon, **L1198 West Haven**—Timothy Ferrucci, **L1241 West Hartford**—James Goggin, Frank Masse, Vincent Navin, Paul Valdes, David Walker, **L1339 Waterbury**—Corey Outlaw, **L1579 Manchester**—Donald Farquhar, **L1964 Groton**—Mark Wickard, **L2033 Southington**—John Aldieri, **L3059 Thompsonville Fire Department**—Vincent Grady, Robert Luke, **L3103 Farmington**—Anthony Flamo, Kevin Moriarty, **L4177 Guilford**—Glenn Mate

DELAWARE **F0135 Dover Air Force Base**—Barry Williams

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA **L0036 Washington**—Kenneth Austin, David Peyton, John Schunk, Stanley Taper, John Thomas, Kelvin Tyree, Michael Walker, John Washington, Timothy White, Terrance Wright

FLORIDA **L0122 Jacksonville Association Of Fire Fighters**—Jammie Jennings, **L0587 Miami Association Of Fire Fighters**—Ivan Chavez, Jose Echagarria, Craig Radelman, **L0707 Pensacola Professional Fire Fighters**—John Chapman, Joseph Vidak, Reese Vines, **L0747 St. Petersburg Association Of Fire Fighters**—John Barfield, Milton Bickley, Michael Blank, Anthony Caldarelli, Scott Harper, Patricia Knuckey, **L0754 Tampa**—Clay Acker, Luanna Baughman, Michael Buttermore, Scott Jung, Edward Stoltz, Stephen Suarez, **L1102 Hialeah Association Of Fire Fighters**—Gregory Bouchard, Roberto Fernandez-Pla, William Godfrey, Didier Mompoin, Julio Nunez, William Parrott, Benny Ruiz, Glenn Stiles, Ricardo Torres, **L1158 Clearwater Fire Fighters Association**—Vincent Booker, Kevin Bowler, David Bryan, **L1210 Coral Gables Professional Fire Fighters Association**—Robert Sportsman, **L1365 Orlando Professional Fire Fighters**—Danny Ables, Hector Corbo, Derek Lennon, Bryan Mathis, Scott McIntyre, Gregg McLay, Davis O'Dell, David Page, Kevin Riley, Daniel Taylor, **L1403 Metropolitan Dade County Association Of Fire Fighters**—Sherri Barriga, Antonio Caride, Cesar Fabal, Mario Gonzalez, Wilbur Harbin, Jose Herrera, Edan Jacobs, Christopher Jones, Julie King, Angel Machado, Harold Malone, Donald Marshall, Felipe Osaba, Rosemarie Rodriguez, Antony Roloff, Charles Seilkop, Melanie Silva, Douglas Smith, Jorge Ulloa, **L1560 Fire Fighters Of Boca Raton**—John Culligan, Norman Engel, Gary Keidel, John Luca, Gerald O'Brien, Pat Rea, Gary Swedenborg, **L1826 Southwest Florida Professional Fire Fighters**—Randy Brown, Michael Callahan, Eric Ducrou, Missi Middleton, **L1842 Professional Fire Fighters Of Delray Beach**—David Wetzel, **L2117 Reedy Creek Professional Fire Fighters Association Local 2117 Inc.**—William Whitaker, **L2135 Professional Fire Fighters Of Ocala**—Thomas Sauer, **L2157 Gainesville Professional Fire Fighters**—Wendy Anderson, Gary Law, John Lewis, **L2267 Safety Harbor Professional Fire Fighters Association**—David Pacheco, **L2292 Professional Fire Fighters Of Pembroke Pines**—Gonzalo Carrasquillo, **L2294 Hillsborough County Fire Fighters**—Robert Raney, **L2297 North Collier Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics Local 2297**—Eric Watson, **L2339 Tallahassee Professional Fire Fighters**—Terry Payne, **L2446 Palm Bay Professional Fire Fighters**—David Bennett, Thomas Riggie, **L2546 Suncoast Professional Fire Fighters & Paramedics**—Justin Blais, George Dietz, William Fortner, Gregory Garrison, Thomas Garrity, William Giannelli, Marc Hassard, William Kimberlin, Joseph Madison, Michael O'Connor,

Peter Ojeda, Steven Story, Anthony Thomann, Paul Weinrich, Gary Wilcher, Lee Wiskowski, John Zwilling, **L2820 Professional Fire Fighters Of Miramar**—Stuart O'Gorman, **L2913 Deltona Professional Fire Fighters**—Thomas Carter, William Fitzpatrick, Christine Gallagher, **L2959 Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics of Martin County**—Benjamin Laird, **L2969 Brevard County Professional Fire Fighters**—Brian Lee, Elissa Paolino, **L3080 Metro-Broward Professional Fire Fighters**—Steve Bilka, Daniel Booker, Hector Corona, Douglas Doethlaff, Ricky Donahue, Scott Johnson, Chris Marino, Michael O'Neill, Jack Ryan, William Strange, **L3163 Longwood Professional Fire Fighters Association**—Michael Hockenberry, **L3254 Seminole County Professional Fire Fighters Association**—Kim Drury, **L3362 Clay County Fire/Rescue Professionals**—Michael Miller, **L3444 Bonita Springs Professional Fire Fighters Association**—Scott Morris, **L3516 South Walton Professional Fire Fighters Association**—Scott Guynne, Paul Stanford, **L3531 Polk County Professional Fire Fighters**—Randall Barfield, Leroy Hodges, **L3574 Volusia County Fire Fighters Association**—Rheatt Bradley, Michael Brasol, Mark Edgill, Michael Inglett, James Koczan, Daniel Lyle, Gregory McLarnan, Doug Powell, Patrick Walden, **L3623 Ocoee Professional Fire Fighters**—Thomas Smothers, **L3638 Key Biscayne Professional Fire Fighters Association**—Andrew Frosch, **L4208 Kissimmee Professional Fire Fighters**—John Cable, K. Scott Fagan, Allen Hodges, Christopher Laymon, Sheri Millard, Stephen Ritenour, **L4321 Broward County**—Michael Jurgrau, Robert Nance, **L4413 Professional Fire Fighters of Walton County**—Russell Hilligoss, **L4420 Pasco County Professional Fire Fighters**—Glen Buzze, Roger Gilkey, Thomas Lambert, Jeffrey O'nan, Ken Urbuteit, **L5173 The Macclenny Association of Professional Fire Fighters**—William Lowery

GEORGIA **L0134 Atlanta**—Michael Attard, Willie Blankenship, Larry Chestnut, Charles Covington, Vince Dewitt, James Martin, Brian Pass, Jerry Ryan, Thomas Towhey, Gregory Wise

HAWAII **L1463 Hawaiian Islands**—Eric Abella, Ernest Ahlo, William Aiona, Peter Akiona, Eugene R K Alvarado, Rickey Amano, Gantry Andrade, Sundie Aribal, Castle Auld, Paul Boddy, Charles Bohn, Rolando Coloma, Brian Cushnie, Robert Kalea Data, Debbi Eleneki, Mark Evans, Jon Faurot, Thomas Hearty, Edward Hofstra, Gary Joseph, Dwight Kahoohanohano, Glenn Kealoha, Clyde Komatsu, Eugene Kon, Randal Kong, Darrell Kong, Gerald Kosaki, Edward Lau, Viktor Lawcock, Kurt Leong, Joseph Lyau, Ricky Mamiya, Mark McCabe, Paul Miguel, Dale Mosher, Howard Naone, William Quinlan, Richard Tsugawa, Timothy Turgeon, Gordon Villa, Richard Wells, Robert Westernman, John Whitman, Curt Yamashita

IDAHO **L0149 Boise**—Jason Barnard, Keith Broden, Ray Criner, Kent Gilbertson, Michael Kruse, Gregory Lamb, Randy Moss, Carl Nebeker, Kevin Olinger, Thomas Pawek, Kirkland Smith, **L0187 Pocatello**—Todd Deagle, **L0804 Nampa**—Paul Visser, **L1565 Idaho Falls**—Mike Abbott, Aldo Bevilacqua, Glenn Marks, Brian Moncur, Joe Nichols, Jeff Parsons, Ralph Risenmay, Sam Villabiscencio, **L1773 Lewiston**—James Thivierge, **L1821 Caldwell**—Robert Black, Keith Ohls, **L4045 Northern Lakes**—James Lyon, **L4336 Spirit Lake**—John Bartholomew, **L4667 Teton County Fire Fighters**—Kevin Bollar, John Wilbrecht

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L4974 Elsmere Professional Fire Fighters—Jeremy Sheehan

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MANITOBA L0867 Winnipeg—P. R. Brenton, Ian Campbell, Barry Carpenter, Bob Ezinicki, Walter Hergesheimer, John Mestery, K. S. Mitchell, David Naaykens, Robert Sidak, Dave Slobodian, D. R. Sumner, Ron Thomas, Donny Troschuk

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L0002	William Campbell	Chicago	IL	L0157	Thomas Stegner	Oklahoma City	OK
L0002	James Catuara	Chicago	IL	L0209	Arden Barnett	Edmonton Fire Fighters Union	AB
L0002	Gerald Cunningham	Chicago	IL	L0209	Andy Bernier	Edmonton Fire Fighters Union	AB
L0002	Bernard Dedinsky	Chicago	IL	L0209	William Drager	Edmonton Fire Fighters Union	AB
L0002	Richard Evans	Chicago	IL	L0209	Dennis Drongal	Edmonton Fire Fighters Union	AB
L0002	Chester Hoyne	Chicago	IL	L0209	Don Olberg	Edmonton Fire Fighters Union	AB
L0002	Thomas Luczak	Chicago	IL	L0209	John Shane	Edmonton Fire Fighters Union	AB
L0002	John McGrath	Chicago	IL	L0209	Lloyd Tally	Edmonton Fire Fighters Union	AB
L0002	Frank Petrasek	Chicago	IL	L0215	Eugene Carmody	Milwaukee	WI
L0002	Kenneth Rae	Chicago	IL	L0215	Kenneth Engel	Milwaukee	WI
L0002	James Roberts	Chicago	IL	L0215	Marvin Kaddatz	Milwaukee	WI
L0002	Edward Sychowski	Chicago	IL	L0215	Charles Leitner	Milwaukee	WI
L0002	Lori Timothy	Chicago	IL	L0215	Leonard Lobacz	Milwaukee	WI
L0002	James Voris	Chicago	IL	L0215	Max Rozewski	Milwaukee	WI
L0002	Chester Witkowski	Chicago	IL	L0215	Robert Woida	Milwaukee	WI
L0022	Joseph Bowden	Philadelphia	PA	L0268	Brian MacKay	Halifax	NS
L0022	George Brion	Philadelphia	PA	L0282	John Broderick	Buffalo	NY
L0022	Gerard Crane	Philadelphia	PA	L0293	Russell Cerami	Erie	PA
L0022	Robert Crockett	Philadelphia	PA	L0302	David Kuebler	Allentown	PA
L0022	Jerry DeJohn	Philadelphia	PA	L0311	Robert Fuller	Madison	WI
L0022	Raymond Dippolito	Philadelphia	PA	L0314	Maurice Stadel	Salem	OR
L0022	Gary Ford	Philadelphia	PA	L0317	Sonnie Meadows	Charleston	WV
L0022	Joe Green	Philadelphia	PA	L0344	David Curry	Detroit	MI
L0022	Michael Juliano	Philadelphia	PA	L0344	Derek Stone	Detroit	MI
L0022	Earl Montebello	Philadelphia	PA	L0359	Sam Sopko	Gary	IN
L0022	Christian Myers	Philadelphia	PA	L0360	Raymond Myers	Mishawaka	IN
L0022	Dennis O'Connor	Philadelphia	PA	L0362	John Samarich	South Bend	IN
L0022	Charles O'Neill	Philadelphia	PA	L0372	Christopher Parker	Long Beach	CA
L0022	Francis Plenskofski	Philadelphia	PA	L0416	David Croucher	Indianapolis	IN
L0022	Anthony Portella	Philadelphia	PA	L0416	Ollie Jelks	Indianapolis	IN
L0022	Francisco Ramos	Philadelphia	PA	L0416	William Joshlin	Indianapolis	IN
L0022	Wayne Rush	Philadelphia	PA	L0416	Paul Morgan	Indianapolis	IN
L0022	Pasquale Trignani	Philadelphia	PA	L0416	Christopher Plikuhn	Indianapolis	IN
L0022	Joseph Verbitski	Philadelphia	PA	L0432	James Hawkins	Wichita Falls	TX
L0022	Francis Widener	Philadelphia	PA	L0484	Dale Tuszke	Stevens Point	WI
L0042	Charles Gabert	Kansas City	MO	L0522	Robert Calbo	Sacramento	CA
L0042	Wayne Lentz	Kansas City	MO	L0522	Albaro Meraz	Sacramento	CA
L0058	David Walters	Dallas	TX	L0556	Norbert Gaylor	Hammond	IN
L0065	Jack Rader	Knoxville	TN	L0556	Thomas Hildebranski	Hammond	IN
L0066	Justin Junk	Waterloo	IA	L0556	Frank Kolodziej	Hammond	IN
L0067	Shane Brintlinger	Columbus	OH	L0556	George O'Brien	Hammond	IN
L0067	John Ritchey	Columbus	OH	L0556	Frank Ross	Hammond	IN
L0094	Stephen Brady	UFA Of New York	NY	L0556	Joe Trgovich	Hammond	IN
L0112	Donald Wallace	Los Angeles City	CA	L0556	John Vargo	Hammond	IN
L0124	Dewayne Compton	Fort Wayne	IN	L0556	Richard Wade	Hammond	IN
L0125	Guillaume Peloquin	Association des Pompiers de Montréal Inc.	QC	L0632	Douglas Arbo	New Orleans	LA
L0140	James Calvin	Nashville	TN	L0632	Charles Hutzler	New Orleans	LA
L0140	Edward Gann	Nashville	TN	L0632	Joseph Jackson	New Orleans	LA
L0140	Charles Keaton	Nashville	TN	L0632	Curtis May	New Orleans	LA
L0140	David Parker	Nashville	TN	L0632	Wilmot Shows	New Orleans	LA
L0140	Franklin Rader	Nashville	TN	L0632	Robert Ward	New Orleans	LA
L0140	John Ragsdale	Nashville	TN	L0660	Fred Archie	Charlotte	NC
L0140	Randall Weaver	Nashville	TN	L0660	Michael Poplin	Charlotte	NC

NEVER FORGET

In Memoriam of Those Who Have Served

Local	Name	Local Name	State	Local	Name	Local Name	State
L0660	Alphonzo Stradford	Charlotte	NC	L1463	George Kamaipili	Hawaiian Islands	HI
L0718	William Buckley	Boston	MA	L1463	David Stephens	Hawaiian Islands	HI
L0718	George Domaldo	Boston	MA	L1463	Richard Tavares	Hawaiian Islands	HI
L0718	John Heaney	Boston	MA	L1485	David Donth	Central Falls	RI
L0718	Edward Kavanagh	Boston	MA	L1491	John Ritchie	Lexington	MA
L0718	Mark LaBadie	Boston	MA	L1583	Darren Endris	Biloxi	MS
L0734	Allen Bramble	Baltimore	MD	L1592	Romie Circle	Roseville Fire Fighters	CA
L0734	Joseph Diggs	Baltimore	MD	L1592	Lynn Fagerlie	Roseville Fire Fighters	CA
L0734	Andrew Douglas	Baltimore	MD	L1592	Bill Hanson	Roseville Fire Fighters	CA
L0734	Charles Fitch	Baltimore	MD	L1592	Bob Hurlock	Roseville Fire Fighters	CA
L0734	Joseph Gessner	Baltimore	MD	L1592	Gary Russell	Roseville Fire Fighters	CA
L0734	R. L. Hooper	Baltimore	MD	L1598	Andrew Issacs	Winter Park Professional Fire Fighters	FL
L0734	Ronald Jones	Baltimore	MD	L1664	Charles Courtney	Montgomery County	MD
L0734	Charles Meurer	Baltimore	MD	L1784	Fred Beacham	Memphis	TN
L0734	James Myers	Baltimore	MD	L1784	Rodrick Guy	Memphis	TN
L0734	Robert Perry	Baltimore	MD	L1784	David Lytle	Memphis	TN
L0734	Gary Smoot	Baltimore	MD	L1784	Donald Palmer	Memphis	TN
L0734	Wilbert Sturdivant	Baltimore	MD	L1784	David Taylor	Memphis	TN
L0734	Steven Trimble	Baltimore	MD	L1784	Edwin Underwood	Memphis	TN
L0734	Raymond Tyson	Baltimore	MD	L1784	David Weber	Memphis	TN
L0734	Donald Wingle	Baltimore	MD	L1833	Albert Perkins	Huntsville	AL
L0747	John Patrick	St. Petersburg Association Of Fire Fighters	FL	L1908	William Conger	Clark County	NV
L0747	Todd Rosenberger	St. Petersburg Association Of Fire Fighters	FL	L1908	Rod Smith	Clark County	NV
L0747	W. Lee Strickland	St. Petersburg Association Of Fire Fighters	FL	L1926	Charles Dalton	Annapolis	MD
L0798	Anthony Branchcomb	San Francisco	CA	L2116	James McDermott	Stoneham	MA
L0798	Terence White	San Francisco	CA	L2141	Michael Keske	Alexandria	VA
L0858	Travis Gumm	Denver	CO	L2424	Chris Asseff	Cape Coral Professional Fire Fighters	FL
L0858	Carlos Lopez	Denver	CO	L2464	Gerard Comeau	Walpole	MA
L0867	Barry Morwick	Winnipeg	MB	L2464	Timothy Headd	Walpole	MA
L0867	Tom Payne	Winnipeg	MB	L2493	Bernard Randolph	Upper Darby	PA
L0867	Irwin Smith	Winnipeg	MB	L2494	Kelly Kelly	Ft. McMurray	AB
L0867	Dave Taylor	Winnipeg	MB	L2494	Christopher Relph	Ft. McMurray	AB
L0867	Bill Viktoruk	Winnipeg	MB	L2501	John Quinn	Salamanca	NY
L0946	Randy Vickers	Laramie	WY	L2637	Paul Quinn	Franklin	MA
L0964	Louis Harper	Baltimore Fire Officers Association	MD	L2665	Donald Bergmann	Professional Fire Fighters of Eastern Missouri	MO
L0975	F. Haydon	Austin	TX	L2665	Joseph Bertagna	Professional Fire Fighters of Eastern Missouri	MO
L1102	Gary Wise	Hialeah Association Of Fire Fighters	FL	L2665	James Conroy	Professional Fire Fighters of Eastern Missouri	MO
L1212	D. Sturges	Mississauga	ON	L2665	Pat Gallagher	Professional Fire Fighters of Eastern Missouri	MO
L1230	Richard Begell	Contra Costa County	CA	L2665	Daniel Laws	Professional Fire Fighters of Eastern Missouri	MO
L1260	Kenneth Dugan	Champaign	IL	L2665	Thomas Purcell	Professional Fire Fighters of Eastern Missouri	MO
L1311	Donald Drenner	Baltimore County	MD	L2665	Vincent Schramm	Professional Fire Fighters of Eastern Missouri	MO
L1311	Timothy Eder	Baltimore County	MD	L2665	Herschell Walker	Professional Fire Fighters of Eastern Missouri	MO
L1311	Dennis Hann	Baltimore County	MD	L2737	Stephen Zelsnack	Cortland Professional Fire Fighters Association	NY
L1311	Edward Robinson	Baltimore County	MD	L2800	Barry Mountain	Arlington County	VA
L1403	Victor Beguiristain	Metropolitan Dade County	FL	L2934	Thomas Barrett	Saint Johnsbury Fire Fighters Association	VT
L1403	Michael Corley	Metropolitan Dade County	FL	L2934	Thomas Claffey	Saint Johnsbury Fire Fighters Association	VT
L1403	John DeMott	Metropolitan Dade County	FL	L2934	Russell Frigon	Saint Johnsbury Fire Fighters Association	VT
L1403	Norman Law	Metropolitan Dade County	FL	L2934	Hans Knutsen	Saint Johnsbury Fire Fighters Association	VT
L1403	William McMullen	Metropolitan Dade County	FL	L2934	William Parker	Saint Johnsbury Fire Fighters Association	VT
L1403	David Phelps	Metropolitan Dade County	FL	L3180	Maurice Rives	Clarksville	TN
L1403	Alexis Richter	Metropolitan Dade County	FL	L3369	John Meyers	Washington Township(Centerville)	OH
L1403	John Robert	Metropolitan Dade County	FL	L3574	Jason Castelli	Volusia County Fire Fighters Association	FL
L1403	Douglas Smith	Metropolitan Dade County	FL	L3617	Daniel Roy	Midway Professional Fire Fighters Association	SC
L1463	Mitchell Balutski	Hawaiian Islands	HI	L3888	Paul Macina	Toronto Professional Fire Fighters	ON
L1463	Hugh Foster	Hawaiian Islands	HI	L4321	Diego Rebor	Broward County	FL

LAST ALARM



We Honor Those Who Lost Their Lives in the Line of Duty

L1403	Manuel A. Morales	Metropolitan Dade County, FL	04/04/2012
L3888	Edward T. Moore	Toronto, ON	11/23/2013
L0809	John Tennant	Pasadena, CA	12/13/2013
L0809	Norm Wiles	Pasadena, CA	05/06/2016
L3444	Armand Calzadilla	Bonita Springs, FL	10/04/2017
L0809	Andre Jones	Pasadena, CA	11/13/2017
L0528	Kenneth Boutilier	Niagara Falls, ON	06/18/2018
L0528	Garnet Cannon	Niagara Falls, ON	08/25/2018
L1403	Dominick F. Barbera	Metropolitan Dade County, FL	09/28/2018
L1941	Joseph A. Nick	Port Coquitlam, BC	11/29/2018
L0854	John Moschella	New York, NY	12/08/2018
L0209	Elmer J. Benning	Edmonton, AB	12/27/2018
L3217	Paul V. Purcell	Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority, DC	02/01/2019
L4345	Lucas Rainville	Horry County, SC	02/13/2019
L1364	Gary D. Oliver	Ventura County, CA	02/16/2019
L4612	Ray Burciaga	Richmond, TX	02/17/2019
L3631	Mark R. Danielson	Orange County, CA	02/19/2019
L0008	Jason Robert Baker	Great Falls, MT	02/20/2019
L3747	Keith J. Hernandez	Kings County, CA	02/23/2019
L2881	Steven F. Casados	Cal Fire, CA	03/01/2019
L1032	Stephen M. Pina	Medford, MA	03/01/2019
L3217	Brent F. Carter	Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority, DC	03/04/2019
L1992	Christopher Cornetta	North Attleboro, MA	03/04/2019
L1692	Jacob L. Ringering	Godfrey, IL	03/05/2019
L0215	Odell Minor	Milwaukee, WI	03/06/2019
L1627	Skyler L. Blackie	Truro, NS	03/20/2019
L0022	Michael J. Bernstein	Philadelphia, PA	03/20/2019
L3178	Michael Williams, Jr.	Coppell, TX	03/24/2019
L0077	Travis Owens	Saint Joseph, MO	03/28/2019
L2260	Nikki Sullivan	Mesa, AZ	04/03/2019

NOTE: Children of IAFF members killed in the line of duty are eligible to receive the W.H. "Howie" McClennan scholarship, which provides financial assistance to attend a university accredited college or other institution of higher learning. For more information contact the IAFF Department of Education at (202) 824-1533.

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Item F998 - \$14.00



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