



134th Annual
Virginia State Firefighter's Association

Memorial Service
and
*Dogwood Tree
Dedication Ceremony*

September 22, 2021

Virginia Beach, Virginia



2021 Memorial Service

Welcome and Invocation

Pastor Tom Williams
Assistant Chaplain of VSFA

Poem, Scripture, and Prayer

“Engine Number...”

by Robert Long

Isaiah 40:30-31 and Isaiah 41:10

Lisa Saul
Vice President of AVSFA

Memorial Message

Pastor Tom Williams
Assistant Chaplain of VSFA

In Loving Memory of those who have passed since July 1, 2019

Ken Brown
President of VSFA
and
Carol Stickley
President of AVSFA

“The Promise”

Teri Norton
Tappahannock/Essex Auxiliary

5-5-5 Tolling of the Bell Reading

Lisa Saul
Vice President of AVSFA

The “Ring of the Bell”

Pete Kirby
1st Vice President of VSFA

Please sign the sheets on the clipboard to let us know who attended the 2021 Memorial Service. These signed sheets will go the Dogwood Tree department recipient to bury when the tree is planted.

Thank you.

Let us remember...

✱ denotes Auxiliary Member

Amissville Volunteer Fire Department & Franconia Volunteer Fire Department

James Woodard

Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department

David A. Hosner

Michael T. Linkous

Allen M. Price

Boiling Springs Volunteer Fire Department

Gerald "Sonny" Pullin

Bobby Nida

Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department & Auxiliary

Guy Lee Clark

✱ Rietta Grey Rodgers

✱ Gertrude M. Sheffer

Broadway Volunteer Fire Department

Jack Lohr

Buckroe Beach Volunteer Fire Company & Auxiliary

Mark A. Carli

✱ Molly Williams

Calloway Volunteer Fire Department

Coy L. Guilliams

Chesterfield County Fire & EMS

TyVaughn N. Eldridge

Christiansburg Volunteer Fire Department & Auxiliary

Harold David Akers Sr.

Brian Richard H. Horne

James "Jimmy" Madison Williams

✱ Phyllis C. Williams

Concord Volunteer Fire Department

David A. Campbell

Covington Volunteer Fire Department

Claiborne Joseph "CJ" Entsminger Jr.

Curtis A. Craft

Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire & Rescue Auxiliary

✱ Joyce Hogan Keys

Elkton Volunteer Fire Department

Donald Lee "DL" Davis

Fairfields Volunteer Fire Department

Michael T. Edwards

Fox Hill Volunteer Fire Department

Thomas E. Fowler Sr.

Fredericksburg Volunteer Fire Company & Ladies Auxiliary

J. Allen Brennan

✱ Kathryn "Kitty" Durity

✱ Mildred "Millie" Stroman

Goochland County Dept. of Fire-Rescue & Emergency

Captain William S. "Willie" Dabney Jr.

Hose Company #4 Fire Department & Auxiliary

Robert "Double Dip" L. Layman

✱ Nancy S. Puffenbarger

✱ Evelyn Washington

Kenbridge Fire Department

Jesse Carlton Carter

William Bernard Perkins

Mangohick Volunteer Fire Department

Cecil L. Schools

Mathews Volunteer Fire Department

Cecil "Eugene" Jones

Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department

Grayson Shelton

Oceana Volunteer Fire Department Inc.

Betty B. Mills

Pearisburg Volunteer Fire Department

Phillip "Shady" Fisher

Poquoson Volunteer Fire Department & Ladies Auxiliary

* Betty Freeman

David H. Guthrie Jr.

Robert "Bobby" Dean Holloway

* Pearl L. Tignor

Robert "Mr. Bobby" S. Wheless

Rich Creek Volunteer Fire Department

William "Bill" R. Foley

Michael Allen Acord

Riner Volunteer Fire Department

Douglas MacArthur "Mac" Garnand

Shenandoah Volunteer Fire Department

Benny Lee Bowman

Lolia Allen Campbell

Noah "Pally" L. Clem Jr.

Derwood "Derby" C. Secrist Jr.

Spotsylvania Volunteer Fire Department

Michael "Mike" W. Gray

Strasburg Volunteer Fire Department & Auxiliary

Glenn McDonald

* Peggy McDonald

* Julia "Judy" V. Ritenour

Tannersville Volunteer Fire Department

Ronald Kinder

Rufus Kinder

James B. Venable

Tappahannock Volunteer Fire Department

Kenneth W. Hammond

R. Wayne "Flipper" Thompson

Triangle Volunteer Fire Department

Danny W. Bomar

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department & Auxiliary

* Martha M. Armstrong

Gary L. Bounds

* Catherine M. Dempsey

Lauris M. Eek, III

* Betty J. Hunter

* Vera I. Lloyd

Fred V. Scimeca

Charles C. Singleton

* Viola G. Singleton

* Rita A. Slaughter

* Patricia J. Wood

Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department

Daniel Synder Hottel

Wythe Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

Andrea K. Byrum, Lt.

Wytheville Volunteer Fire Department

James E. "Ikey" Davidson

Dogwood Tree Dedication Ceremony

Welcome

In Honor of Fire & Rescue Services *(video)*

Video *created by* Zachary & Ayla Hottel

Hose Co. #4, Harrisonburg

“Angels Amongst Us” *music by* Alabama

History of the Dogwood Tree Dedication

Presentation of the Dogwood Tree

“This is My Wish for You”

by Ralph Waldo Emerson

We have a small token of appreciation for each of you, so please be sure to get one on your way out.

You are welcome to take photos with the memorial display. Feel free to take a flower from the display in memory of one honored tonight.

5-5-5 Tolling of the Bell

Historically, long before radios and computer aided dispatch, in the late 19th Century, Americans in cities across the country either had to go to the nearest firehouse to report a fire, or, in the larger cities, go to a street corner and pull the handle on a fire alarm box. These boxes were found at intersections throughout a given city, and each one had its own special numeric identifier. Pulling that handle sent a signal to a fire alarm office that looked up the box location, and transmitted the alarm via telegraph to all firehouses due to respond.

Firefighters at each station learned which boxes to which they were first, second, or third due to respond and where they were located. When the telegraph activated a receiver at the firehouse, it triggered a series of bells to ring, alerting personnel to an emergency. If the series corresponded to boxes to which they were expected to respond, they immediately scrambled for their apparatus and departed for that location. In those days, if a box alarm was struck, the fire was usually easily located by arriving firefighters.

In New York City, this box alarm system was well developed. Tradition carries the story that the box to which firefighters responded and lost the first career firefighter in the line of duty was Box 5-5-5. So significantly was this loss felt that Box 5-5-5 was retired and replaced with a new numeric assignment. Thereafter, a Signal 5-5-5 transmitted by the fire alarm office served to notify all department personnel that a firefighter had lost their life. This is heard as five bells, a pause, five bells, a pause, and five more bells.

That tradition continues to be observed today throughout the American fire service at memorial services to recognize the loss of our brothers and sisters, ringing a fire bell to make these losses known. At First Responder Virginia, we will ring the bell to honor those lost over the years since we last gathered.

Special Thanks

Teri Norton, our vocalist, a Member of Tappahannock-Essex VFD Auxiliary. Thank you to those who assisted with the wreath and the placement of the flowers.

The Dept. of Fire Services for providing and setting up the projector for the slide show and to those handing out the programs for this evening's Memorial Service.

Please take a moment to snap a picture with the wreath in honor of your loved one. Also, feel free to take a flower in remembrance of them.