



135th Annual
Virginia State Firefighter's Association

Memorial Service
and
Dogwood Tree
Dedication Ceremony

August 10, 2022
Hampton Roads, Virginia



2022 Memorial Service

Welcome and Invocation

Pastor Tom Williams
Assistant Chaplain of VSFA

Poem, Scripture, and Prayer

“I’m Free”

by Shannon Lee Moseley

John 14:27

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, 2021

Pete Kirby
President of VSFA
and
Carol Stickley
President of AVSFA

“It is Well with My Soul”

Teri Norton
Tappahannock/Essex Auxiliary

5-5-5 Tolling of the Bell Reading

Lisa Saul
Vice President of AVSFA

The “Ringing of the Bell”

Wayne Grimsley
Culpeper County VFD

Please sign the sheets on the clipboard to let us know who attended the 2022 Memorial Service. These signed sheets will go the Dogwood Tree department recipient to bury when the tree is planted.

Thank you.

Let us remember...


Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department

Jeffery Wayne Garst

Boiling Spring Fire & Rescue

Robert Roscoe Campbell Jr.

Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary

 Anna Margaret Miller, *Mother of the AVSFA*

 Elga Keith Propst "Betsy" Gaylor

Centreville Volunteer Fire Department

James "Jim" Hood

Christiansburg Volunteer Fire Department

Donald Richard Shaw

Kelly Clinton Steele

Clarendon Volunteer Fire Department

Michael Joseph Brooks

Walter Richard DeGroot

John Robert Jasinowski

Colonial Heights Fire & Rescue

Lloyd "Brickhead" Goddard III

Culpeper County Volunteer Fire Department

Joseph Edward Stephens

Dublin Volunteer Fire Department

Stanley "Duke" Lyons


Eagle Engine Company #3

William "Bill" Henley

Falling Spring Rescue Squad & Ladies Auxiliary

Mary Cook Kern

Fox Hill Volunteer Fire Department & Auxiliary

 Linda "Sam" Abeyounis

Daniel "Dan" Lee Brookman

Harry H. Johnson Sr.

Gladys Volunteer Fire Department

Christopher Gene Phelps

Green Spring Volunteer Fire Department

Garland "Rooster" Denver Graybeal

Hose Company #4 Fire Department & Harrisonburg Rescue Squad

Lewis Andrew Warner

Kenbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Lewis William Boyle
Harold Benjamin "HB" Gee Jr.

Millwood Station Fire & Rescue Auxiliary

Alma Russell Kerns Gaunt "Sis"

Moorefield Store Community Volunteer Fire Department & Ladies Auxiliary

Joe David "JD" Cobler Sr.
Lee Ann Ellis Collins
Rufus Clayton Hutchens

New Market Auxiliary (Individual Member)

☼ Ina Mae Blosser Richards

New Market Fire & Rescue

Charles E. Day Jr.
Ronald Lee "Ronnie" Martz

Palmer Springs Volunteer Fire Department

Scott Davis Watkins

Poquoson Volunteer Fire Department & Ladies Auxiliary

☼ Rosalyn "Rose" Pauls Hunt
Robert "Bob Jr." Mitchell Insley Jr.
☼ Faye Holloway Trantham

Rapidan Volunteer Fire Department

Alan James Shotwell

Saxis Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

Diane Deborah Sprowl

Shenandoah Volunteer Fire Company

Thomas Newton Clem
Larry Wayne Daniel
Patti Ann "Tappy" Parks
David Russell Shuler
Arthur Douglas Van Hying
William "Bill" Page Vaughan

Tappahannock Volunteer Fire Department

☼ Irma Scott Carneal

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department & Auxiliary

Barbara H. Herring
☼ Goldie M. Appleton

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.