

Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza News

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The Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza is a place of tribute to Fallen Fire Chief David Campbell combined with a memorial wall sharing the names of all Portland Firefighters who have given their lives in service. The public plaza will be a place of remembrance, reflection, and interpretation of the vigilance of Portland Fire & Rescue's service to Portland.

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**For Info contact**

Don Porth,  
DCMA President  
503-805-8482

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PFMP
1850 SW Alder Street
Portland OR 97205

Dates of Importance

August 2nd—The 169th Anniversary of Portland Fire and the 139th Anniversary of the great conflagration of Portland

September 11—The 21st Anniversary of the World Trade Center Attack, a day to remember firefighters.

Honoring Fallen Firefighters

On June 27th, the 111th anniversary of the death of David Campbell was recognized at the Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza. This event also recognizes all Portland Firefighters who have died in service to the citizens of Portland.

The event featured speakers that included Mayor Ted Wheeler sharing the perspective of the city of Portland, Division Chief AJ Jackson sharing the perspective of Portland Fire & Rescue, and Don Porth, President of the DCMA sharing the historic context of the Memorial Site. Other features were the Portland Fire Firefighters Pipes and Drum Band, the Portland Fire & Rescue Honor Guard, and the singing of the National Anthem by Portland Firefighter Travis Powell. All in all, it was a beautiful tribute to Portland's Fallen Firefighters and the families who attended.

Of special note this year was the reading of the names of the fallen. This year's

roll call included 75 names. This is up from 36 in past years. The change occurred for a couple of important reasons. The first is that research in city records found 38 additional names that the Fire & Police Disability and Retirement Board (the body that manages Firefighter and Police Benefits) had. These additional members, died due to health-related causes. Their deaths, all prior to their retirement date, were related to their work with Portland Fire.

The 75th name, Jerry Richardson, died last November due to occupational cancer. Current legislation has opened broader thinking on the cause of service connected death among firefighters. No longer is it relegated to the scene of an emergency. This expanded perspective is important in recognizing the vulnerability of firefighters to health-related risks associated with the job. Occupational cancer has become the leading cause of firefighter line of duty deaths.

The David Campbell Memorial Association

Founded as the "David Campbell Memorial and Medal Fund" on June 21, 1913, the David Campbell Memorial Association (DCMA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the legacy of Fire Chief David Campbell, and caretaking the memory of all Portland Firefighters who have given their life in service to the citizens of Portland. The DCMA has maintained the David Campbell Memorial Plaza, located between SW Alder, SW 18th Avenue and SW 19th Avenue, since it

was dedicated on June 26, 1928. The DCMA is made up of a board of members representing the administration of Portland Fire & Rescue, the working members of Portland Fire & Rescue, the Portland Firefighter's Association, the Retired Portland Firefighter's & Widows Association, and the public at large.

The DCMA is identified by the IRS under Internal Revenue Code as a 501 c(3) as a 509 a (1) and 170 b(1)(a)(vi). EIN 93-0853003

www.DavidCampbellMemorial.org

"David Campbell Memorial Association" on Facebook

What Else Does The DCMA Do?

The David Campbell Memorial Association was founded to help manage the development of a tribute to Fallen Fire Chief David Campbell. The physical memorial would be completed on June 26, 1928. That must have been quite a feeling of accomplishment by the DCMA.

The DCMA must have felt there was more to be done because soon after the completion of the memorial, an award program to recognize acts of valor by Portland Firefighters was created. Few details exist, but the first two award recipients provide insight into the effort.

The first award was given to Tom Gavin. Records do not share what he did to earn the award, and even the award itself is not described. Gavin was David Campbell's official driver. It could be that he played a role in the fire that took David Campbell's life, or perhaps he was given the task of dealing with the details to lay Chief Campbell to rest. We may never know.

The next award shown in the record was given to OM Morgan. It was apparently earned at an unknown date in 1930 but awarded at the annual Memorial Service in 1932. Notes say he "saved the lives of two people at the Stelwyn Apartment Fire." No description of the type of award was given. Morgan was hired in 1928 and retired in 1951.

The next award would be shown in 1966, given to Robert Hayden. It notes that it was for "saving the life of Wendy Rogers." Hayden was hired in 1951 and retired in 1987, having risen to the rank of Division Chief. Since that time, numerous awards have been given.

The David Campbell Awards for Valor were intended to be given for acts by Portland Firefighters that occur while on duty. In recent years, notable acts of valor by Portland Firefighters when off duty had been submitted for consideration. This posed a dilemma for DCMA members. It was decided to create an award specific to off duty valor.

The story of a Portland Firefighter who died in WWII was discovered and became the foundation for the off duty valor award.

A Bus Stop???

If you've had an opportunity to visit the David Campbell Memorial site in recent weeks, you'll notice something new...a bus stop. TriMet installed the bus shelter in June to add to a bus line traveling east on SW Alder Street. This seems an odd addition to the memorial site but it may or may not be. For now, it brings foot traffic to the Memorial triangle that should help discourage misuse of the property. It is also a situation that may be negotiated differently as the plans for the Memorial Plaza evolve. In the meantime, if you travel by bus through there, take a moment to visit the Memorial as you pass by.

David Kingsley would be hired in mid 1942 but be deployed to the war a few months after hire. Two years later, while serving on a B17 bomber, Kingsley would lose his life.

During a bombing run over Romania, Kingsley's plane was crippled by anti-aircraft fire. Two crew members were injured and Kingsley treated them. The crippled plane was failing and the pilot ordered all crew members to parachute out. One injured crew member's parachute had been damaged so Kingsley placed his parachute on the man and sent him to safety. All others had already left the plane, leaving Kingsley alone to ride the plane to his death.

Kingsley posthumously received the Medal of Honor and Kingsley Field, in Klamath Falls, OR was named in his honor. While not on duty as a Portland Firefighter, the spirit of his actions were consistent with Portland Firefighters both on duty or off.

