

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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Dates of Importance

January 1—January first marks the 140th Anniversary of the formation of the Portland Paid Fire Department. No longer an all volunteer department, 3 firefighters per station were now paid for their work. 5-8 others, however, remained unpaid. This would continue until 1904.

A Holiday Gift From City Leaders

The Portland City Council has recently completed their fall budget adjustment process. The David Campbell Memorial Association is pleased to report that \$250,000 has been dedicated to the Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza Project.

The budget adjustment process occurs in the spring and fall of each year to re-allocate dedicated funds that were not, or could not, be used for their intended purposes. For example, if a City Bureau is supposed to employ 500 people, the budget is set up to have dedicated pay for 500 people. If only 400 of those 500 positions are able to be filled, the additional funding for the other 100 does not get used. The budget adjustment process gathers up unused funds from all bureaus and re-allocates them to fund unforeseen, unexpected, or emergent needs. Moving funds within a dedicated budget is a delicate process and requires the city to use very specific processes to do so.

One benefactor of this adjustment is the Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza. While the donation does not fully fund the project, it provides a significant amount of money and shows the commitment city leaders have toward this project. Given the high level needs for human services and public safety, this gesture becomes even more significant. The DCMA would like to publicly thank the members of City Council, in particular Jo Ann Hardesty, for their faith in, and support of, this heritage project.

The DCMA would also like to thank the many individuals and organizations who chose to contact City Council members with letters, e-mails, and calls for support of the project. Your public input was heard, and the city responded.

Beginning in January, we will strategize our continuing fundraising efforts. Follow our efforts on our web site or Facebook page

There Is Still Time...

It is common to find people helping their favorite causes and charities near the end of the calendar year. If you feel inclined to add the Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza project to your year-end giving, you can find ways to donate by visiting our web site at

www.DavidCampbellMemorial.org. Go to the "Sponsors/Support" page to donate by credit card or to the "Contact Us" page to find our mailing address or to contact us about alternative ways to support the project. Thank you for following our project.

Happy Holidays from the DCMA!!

www.DavidCampbellMemorial.org
"David Campbell Memorial Association" on Facebook

What Takes The Lives Of Portland Firefighters?

It has been well documented that Portland Firefighters have lost their lives in service to the citizens of Portland. The first line of duty death, that of Firefighter James Reed of Protection Engine Company #4, occurred on August 21, 1881. Reed is also considered the first firefighter in the State of Oregon to be killed on the job. Since Reed's death, 74 others have met a similar fate, the most recent being Lieutenant Jerry Richardson, who died on November 19, 2021. These details are not well known because a proper display and interpretation of their circumstances does not exist.

Most people believe that firefighting activities take the lives of firefighters. The fact of the matter is most of Portland's Fallen Firefighters (and those in most any community across the country), die from health related causes resulting from occupational exposures, or job-related injury/illness.

Of Portland's 75 Fallen Firefighters, 19 died at or near the emergency scene. 5 firefighters would die traveling to or from the emergency scene. 2 would die in a training exercise. 5 more would die during maintenance activities in the fire station. Over half, 44 in total, would die of health related causes that include heart ailment, stress, cancer, pneumonia, and a few other service connected reasons.

The fire service has much to learn about the variety of causes. Methods to reduce work related stress and fireground dangers are being employed by Portland Fire. Even staffing levels play a role in firefighter safety. The public must also understand and appreciate their role. Emergency calls drive the activities of Portland Firefighters. A safer community means safer firefighters. Protect yourself and your firefighters by living safely at home, at work, and in the community.

To Learn More...

The development of the Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza continues to grow and evolve. You can find additional information on the "David Campbell Memorial Association" Facebook Page. This also includes other important information about safety and health issues faced by today's firefighters.

The David Campbell Memorial Association web site is another source of information. Find it at DavidCampbellMemorial.org. And to speak to a member of the David Campbell Memorial Association, contact Don Porth, President, 503-805-8482 or Don@PreventThink.com



Hallowed Grounds Of Portland Fire

While the David Campbell Memorial certainly qualifies as "Hallowed Ground" for Portland Firefighters, another location carries significant meaning too. In 1862, Block 5 of Lone Fir Cemetery was deeded to Portland Firefighters for exclusive burial and a no-cost burial plot. Metro Cemeteries still honors this today. 146 members/spouses/children have been laid to rest with the earliest being in 1864 and the most recent in 2021. Twelve of Portland's 75 Fallen Firefighters rest there. The "Firefighters Section" is cared for by the DCMA and the Portland Firefighter's Association.



**DAVID CAMPBELL
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION**