

# 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

**October 9**—This is the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which became the day marking national Fire Prevention Week. Take a moment to consider your personal safety and that of those you love. It may save a life!

## Who is Paul Cret???

The David Campbell Memorial is thought to be best known to the fire service in Portland. However, there is another aspect to the 94 year old monument that makes up the physical David Campbell Memorial (DCM).

When the DCM was envisioned soon after Chief Campbell's death, something more than just a place to carve Campbell's name was envisioned by some.

Paul Philippe Cret was an influential architect and instructor who, through his built work and his teaching, left an indelible mark on American architecture culture of the twentieth century. Cret is generally acknowledged as one of the most prominent architects of his era—the first three decades of the twentieth century. He gained recognition as the designer of many renowned buildings, memorials, and bridges, a number of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

As a professor at the University of Pennsylvania for 34 years, he educated generations of American architects in the principles of Beaux-Arts architecture.

A proposal to erect a memorial to Campbell was brought about soon after Campbell was killed. The DCMA was founded two years later. However, it wasn't until 1917 that the association acquired the plot of land donated by Katherine A. Daly, which made the project possible.

A 1917 city ordinance granted the Trustees of the "David Campbell Memorial and Medal Fund" the privilege of erecting and maintaining a monument. Paul Cret was chosen as the architect at the recommendation of Ernest F. Tucker, Jr. Tucker, who acted as the local supervising architect to the monument's construction, had been a student of Cret's at the University of Pennsylvania.

The project would be dedicated on June 26, 1928, 17 years after Campbell's death. Without the work of Paul Cret, the monument Portlanders have come to know would not be the landmark we know today. Cret's story and role in building this heritage site will be included in the new Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza.

## There Is Still Time...

There is still time to have your voice heard about the importance of the Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza. You can call, write, or e-mail the Portland City Council members to share with them why this is an important project to the citizens of Portland, the Firefighters of Portland, or

the cultural heritage of Portland. Without your voice, this may not happen.

Contact information is available on-line at [www.Portlandorgon.gov](http://www.Portlandorgon.gov) or call 503-823-4000 to get more contact information. Contact Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Hardesty, Mapps, Ryan, and Rubio.

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# The Design of the Memorial Plaza

Design work continues to evolve for the Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza. Architectural images are not yet available. However, the elements of the sight are coming into focus.

The primary feature will be the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Wall, which will list the names of Portland's 75 Fallen Firefighters who have given their lives in service. The wall will interpret their sacrifice and contribution to the Portland community. Various ideas are still under consideration as to how the names will be displayed but the plan is to provide an experience that includes more than one of the physical senses.

Other interpretations will include the history of Portland Fire & Rescue, which began in 1853. The now-city bureau that provides round the clock protection to the city of Portland provides context for the members of the organization who will be represented on the memorial wall.

Paul Cret, a central feature in the design of the David Campbell Memorial, which has served as a home for the names of Portland's Fallen Firefighters since 1928, certainly deserves mention and recognition for creating a recognizable heritage icon in the city.

The Messenger Bell will be displayed and interpreted at the site. This grand bell, purchased by the city of Portland in October 1873 in response to "Black Saturday," harkens back to a major fire that destroyed 22 blocks of the city on August 2, 1873. It is iconic on its own, yet most people know little about it.

And of course, the David Campbell Memorial. It will be renovated and refreshed after its 94 years of service. It will remain a tribute to Chief Campbell. It has served as the anchor of this heritage site since it was first imagined, just days after Chief Campbell's death.



**Paul Phillippe Cret** (pronounced "Cray") was born in Lyons, France. While in school, he won the Prix de Paris which allowed him to study in Paris before graduating in 1903. Upon graduation, he accepted a position as Professor of Design at the School of Architecture at University of Pennsylvania where he remained until 1937. At the same time, he developed a private architectural practice and became a leading practitioner in the Beaux-Arts style. He would pass in 1945, yet his body of work lives on.

## To Learn More...

The development of the Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza continues to develop 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](http://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](mailto:Don@PreventThink.com)



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MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION