

# 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

*The first official fire company to serve the citizens of Portland was Vigilance Hook & Ladder. They would begin responding to fires on August 2, 1853, 171 years ago. This was 6 years before Oregon became a state. Portland Fire has served continuously ever since. Not many organizations or agencies can boast such a history.*

## It's All About Community

The David Campbell Memorial and the developing Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza are certainly noteworthy in and of themselves. Many think these are intended for Portland Firefighters only. Nothing could be further from the truth. These facilities are intended for the community and Portland Fire to share.

After the death of Fire Chief David Campbell on June 26th, 1911, the community rallied to determine the best way to honor the popular Fire Chief. It was not that the Firefighters of Portland did not care enough to support the project. More simply, the job of a firefighter was relatively low paying and didn't allow a firefighter's income to support much more than the basics of life. Also, Firefighters at that time worked 6 days in a row followed by 24 hours off duty before returning for another 6 days. This schedule would repeat.

While it would take 17 years, the community would raise the \$35,000 necessary to build the David Campbell Memorial. Additional funds would be contributed to expand the site in 1963. This would add the grassy area on the east side. The Junior Chamber of Commerce took on this challenge to improve the site.

In the spirit of community support, we are pleased to announce that the Stadium District Business Association has applied for, and been successful in receiving, a grant from Venture Portland to restore the beautiful lanterns that grace the David Campbell Memorial.

You may have noticed the lanterns have been removed. This happened after the September 2023 vandalism. They haven't been sitting still. Firebird Bronze, a metal foundry in Troutdale, has been working their magic to restore the damage and fully repair, clean, and refurbish them, returning them to their original beauty. Included will be new glass lenses and all new electrical internals. They will have some additions to provide better protection against vandalism.

And speaking of Firebird Bronze, the Goose Hollow Goose, commissioned by the Goose Hollow Foothills League, and sculpted by bronze artist Rip Caswell (in Troutdale) will be on display in the finished memorial site as well. It was displaced when the Kings Hill Max Station was removed. We are pleased to host it as part of the memorial to welcome visitors and citizens to the Goose Hollow community.

## More On Community Support

Individual members of the community have also provided much needed support. When the DCMA signed a Stewardship Agreement with PBOT to take responsibility for the Memorial Triangle, they also assumed maintenance responsibility. Some of that has been assumed by Station 15, the Portland Heights fire station at SW Spring and Vista. Much of

the rest has been well supported by neighbors and friends of the site. The city of Portland provided a trash receptacle to assist, and the DCMA has even provided some tools for those pitching in regularly. The support of this site as we continue to work toward our finished plaza is very much appreciated. Just like the origins of the David Campbell Memorial, it is for the community as much as the firefighters.

# Honoring Our Own

On June 26th, the David Campbell Memorial Association and Portland Fire added a new name to the Roll Call of Portland's Fallen Firefighters. Roger C. Brandenburg, a Portland Firefighter from May 7, 1964 until July 25, 1978 became the 77th name to grace the list of those giving their lives in service to the citizens of Portland. Roger would die of heart failure on July 26, 1981. You may have already noticed that his death occurred over 43 years ago. This is true. His story does not fit the typical model for service connected death. Roger was electrocuted on an emergency response in 1977. While he would survive, he would be medically retired on a heart disability in July 1978. This was against his wishes, but a medical exam found a problem with his heart. He would continue his involvement in the fire service, soon being elected president of the Oregon State Firefighters Council (advocating for occupational rights for firefighters across the state). Three years after his medical retirement, he died of heart failure. The DCMA reviewed his story when Roger's family brought to our attention. His untimely death at age 43 and causal path to his on the job electrocution compelled the DCMA to add him to the list of fallen members. We thank his family for preserving his story and presenting it for this honor.



## Acts of Valor by Portland Firefighters



The DCMA recognizes acts of valor by Portland Firefighters, both on and off duty. At this year's David Campbell Memorial Service, two firefighters were honored, one for on-duty valor and one for off-duty valor. Below are their awards and stories:

### David Campbell Bronze Metal for On Duty Valor

Firefighter Richard Lyman—For his heroic and courageous actions attempting to rescue a trapped occupant of a residential fire at 141st Avenue and East Burnside Street. FF Lyman entered the fire-involved residence, enduring difficult and dangerous conditions. Despite personal injury, he continued his assignment until relieved by other crews. The incident occurred on May 19, 2023



### David Kingsley Medal for Off Duty Valor

Lieutenant Ed Resch—While off-duty, Lt. Resch responded to a Pulse Point notification for a fire at a residence at 2076 NE Alameda Drive. Upon arrival, heavy smoke conditions were present. Lt. Resch entered the building and found a woman, lost in the smoke, searching for a young girl. He was able to find the girl and assist both residents escape the fire. Lt. Resch then assisted arriving companies establish operations. Lt. Resch's efforts were performed in a dangerous and life threatening situation that likely led to the survival of the occupants. This incident occurred on November 23, 2023

## To Learn More...



**DAVID CAMPBELL  
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION**

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 ways in which you can support this project and bring honor, recognition, and remembrance to all of Portland's Fallen 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)