David Campbell Memorial Association

Portland Firefighter Memorial Plaza News

Issue 15 July 2025

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.

For Info contact

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Dates of Importance

On August 2, 1853, Portland Fire & Rescue began service to the citizens of Portland and have served the community continuously for the past 172 years.

August 2, 1873 also marks the 152 anniversary of "Black Saturday, the conflagration that destroyed 22 square blocks of Portland, most of the city at that time

113th David Campbell Memorial Service

On June 26th, Portland Fire, the David Campbell Memorial Association, and the Portland Firefighter's Association held the 113th annual David Campbell Memorial Service. This marks 114 years since Fire Chief David Campbell met his demise in the Union Oil Fire at SE Water Avenue and Salmon Street.

This year's service was held at the Fire-fighter's Section of Lone Fir Cemetery, a special site that was deeded to Portland Firefighters as an exclusive place in the cemetery of burial for Portland Firefighters. This gift, from the property owner at that time, occurred on November 16, 1862 and Metro Historic Cemeteries still honors the agreement. It remains one of the two hallowed grounds of Portland Firefighters.

It is not unusual for the David Campbell Memorial Service to be held at a place other than the David Campbell Memorial (1864 SW Alder Street). In the 17 years before the Memorial was completed, the service would be held at David Campbell's gravesite in Riverview Cemetery.

The Firefighter's Section in Lone Fir makes an excellent stand-in since 12 of the 77 Portland Firefighters who died in service chose burial in the 100 x 100 foot Block 5.

This year's service included the Portland Fire Honor Guard, the Portland Fire Fighter's Pipes and Drum Band, the placing of the wreath by Fallen Firefighter George Godson's son. The DCMA also issued three valor awards to Portland Firefighters who distinguished themselves in valor.

Present were several family members of our fallen firefighters. Also present was Leslie Kingsley Jones, niece of Portland Firefighter and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient David Kingsley, for whom our "Medal for Off Duty Valor" is named (he died heroically in WWII).

Thank you to those who were able to attend. This special day honors the legacy of Chief David Campbell and remembers all Portland Firefighters who have given their lives in service.



Summer Concert Schedule

Summer concerts in the Memorial Triangle continue, bringing familyfriendly music to the Goose Hollow and Stadium District Community.

The remaining five shows on the schedule start at 7:00 pm and ending at 8:30 pm. Please join us.

Remaining Schedule:

- July 17
- July 31
- August 14
- August 28
- September 11

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

Restoration Work To Begin

Restoration work on the Portland Firefighter Memorial Triangle is about to begin. It will start with the restoration of the David Campbell Memorial. All stone work will be cleaned and sealed. Painted portions, which cover very soft stone, will receive a new protective coating. The Memorial floor will be re-grouted and the border surrounding the bluestone floor will be removed and replaced. This includes the portions that were damaged when



the name plates were stolen. The restoration of the lanterns is almost complete. They only await new glass lenses, which are being custom made. The Messenger Bell is also scheduled to receive its restoration soon.

While it may seem that little has happened, nothing could be further from the truth. Design, engineering, permitting, and the all-important fundraising have all been moving forward. With over \$620,000 raised, the remaining \$1 million, when acquired, will assure the completion of this important city heritage site and the memory of our Fallen Firefighters.

David Campbell Memorial Service & Rescue Boat Dedication

Two very important events took place in late June. First was the 113th Annual David Campbell Memorial Service. It is described on page one. The second was the christened of Rescue Boat 17 in the memory of Fallen Firefighter Jerry Richardson. The Rescue Boat, now known as the "Jerry Richardson," will remain assigned to Station 17 on Hayden Island. This is a distinct honor that only 5 other Portland Firefighters have been granted since Portland Fire's Marine Program began in 1904. Jerry, who died from occupational cancer, last served at Station 17. The dedication took place on June 30th, surrounded by area fireboats and Jerry's family, friends, and co-workers.



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 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**. And to speak to a member of the David Campbell Memorial Association, contact Don Porth, President, 503-805-8482 or Don@PreventThink.com